



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS FUND

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE 9th JULY 2012

KEY ISSUE:

To receive an update on the first round of bids considered for funding through the Community Improvements Fund.

SUMMARY:

The Community Improvements Fund was established on 13 December 2011. A Panel of County Councillors was set up to consider the bids submitted and refer recommendations to the Leader for approval. The Leader considered the first round of bids on 24 May 2012. The deadline for the second round of bids has recently been announced and is set out in this report.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree to NOTE the information on the first round of bids considered for funding through the Community Improvements Fund and the dates for the second round of bids.

1. INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 13 December 2011, the Leader of Surrey County Council announced a £813,000 Community Infrastructure Fund for 2012/13. The aim of the fund was to give local groups the chance to improve their areas, make a real difference to people's lives and strengthen the ability of residents to independently enhance where they live. Bids were invited between £10,000 and £50,000 for one-off capital schemes for community improvements (in exceptional circumstances bids for start-up revenue projects were considered).
- 1.2 At the same meeting on 13 December 2011, it was announced that the bids would be submitted through the Community Partnerships Team, and considered by a Community Improvements Panel who would put forward its recommendations on which bids should be considered for approval. This Panel consisted of Nick Skellett (Panel Lead), Pat Frost, Peter Hickman, Susie Kemp and Fiona White.
- 1.3 The bids were evaluated based upon the criteria outlined in Annexe A. The Panel considered all the bids using the evaluation criteria outlined and made its recommendations for funding which the Leader considered on 24 May 2012. The applications that he approved as successful for funding (and any conditions) are set out in Annexe B.

2. ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 There were four* bids submitted from the Spelthorne area, the types of projects, and whether they were approved are as set out in Table 1 below:

Spelthorne Borough Council Shepperton Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)	Requested £49,925 from £49,925	Approved - £45,000 Condition – Subject to clarification on which agency would be responsible for maintenance of the site
Surrey Police Stanwell Bike Ramps – installation of ramps in Long Lane Recreation Ground	Requested £50,000 from £75,000 (estimated)	Unsuccessful bids
Staines Swimming Club Saxon Swimming Pool – replacement of dilapidated swimming pool roof	Requested £50,000 from £115,000	
Spelthorne School To update and refurbish the existing empty clinic building on the school site.	Requested £50,000 from £50,000 (estimated)	

*A unsuccessful bid was also submitted by Mediation North Surrey covering the boroughs of Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne, which for administration purposes was classified under Elmbridge.

3. SECOND ROUND OF BIDS

- 3.1 There will be a second opportunity for members of the public to apply for the remainder of the funding for projects within the 2012/13 financial year. The following table sets out the key dates in relation to this bidding round. Please note that all bids should use the application form online or as attached in Annexe C and look to match the criteria set out in Annexe A of this report.

Deadline for Submitting Bids	28 September 2012 – 5pm
CIF Final Panel Meeting	5 November 2012
Leader’s Decision Making Meeting	21 November 2012

4. CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 The Leader of the Council introduced the scheme, and Members appointed by the Leader sat on the Panel alongside the Assistant Chief Executive. Community Partnerships Team liaised with applicants in developing their bids by providing guidance regarding the criteria. Local Members and Local Committee Chairmen were consulted on the bids in their areas. Where bids had an implication on Surrey County Council services, officers within these services were asked for their opinions on the bids.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of funding the projects identified within Annexe A will be £469,264. The Community Improvement’s Fund Budget is £813,000. Therefore this proposal is within the agreed revenue budget, and the Panel will hold a second round of bidding later in the financial year.
- 5.2 These grants are being made by the Council in accordance with its general powers of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, under which it is empowered to do anything that individuals generally do and this includes the power to do things for the benefit of persons resident or present in its area.
- 5.3 There are no identifiable negative risks attributed to the processing of the Fund. We need to ensure that the payments are processed in a timely manner and for the projects approved. Each of the successful projects will be asked to report back on the outcomes of the funding after twelve months.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. This fund could present further opportunities to have a positive impact on climate change and reduction of carbon emissions through the improvement of local facilities and improved self-reliance within communities.

7. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications, however the projects that have been approved are those that have citizen engagement and meet some or all of the key core themes relating to the project. Therefore this fund could present opportunities to have a positive impact on reducing crime and disorder within those areas.

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Fund is open to groups (not individuals) who are applying on behalf of the community, but is not restricted to any specific groupings within the county. It is currently unknown whether the funding process has had an impact on the types of organisations who have applied for this funding, the aim is to review the process after 6 months to identify better methods of communicating with hard to reach groups
- 8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on criteria and process for applying for this Fund. This has been considered by the Assistant Chief Executive, submitted to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and considered by the Panel prior to making recommendations. It is available online for viewing.

9. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note the information within the report and use this information to inform residents and community groups of the deadlines and the criteria if they want to submit a bid within the second round of bids.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Leader's Decision Making Report
- Community Improvement Fund Application Form

- Community Improvement Fund Criteria and Guidance
- Scoring Matrix