



County Councillors' Local Allocations for 2006/07

26 January 2006

KEY ISSUES

This report sets out the funding available for County Councillors' allocations for 2006/07 and asks Members to consider new requests for funding. Further to recent amendments to the County Council's Scheme of Delegation, Members are asked whether or not they wish to make changes to the locally agreed arrangements for Tandridge Local Committee; to review the existing local arrangements and to identify any other changes that they would like to make, within the County Council's financial framework.

SUMMARY

The Local Committee has received 12 applications for funding to consider totalling £22,332 to be processed under existing local arrangements, which leaves £37,388 available funding to the end of March. The current local arrangements governing allocations are due for review and Members are asked to identify and agree any amendments to take effect from April 2007 for the following 12 months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

County Councillors are asked:

- a) to consider new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as at Annex A;
- b) to decide whether, and how, to change local arrangements following the amendments to the County Council's Scheme of Delegation as set out in the briefing note at Annex B, and
- c) to recommend any further changes to the existing local protocol for allocations set out in Annex C.

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Since April 2002, Members of the Tandridge Local Committee have pooled their delegated resources and, although the amount available has varied from year to year, the number of projects has remained roughly the same and a wide range of local groups and, through them, local residents, have benefited.
- 1.2 In 2006/07, Surrey County Council has delegated £11,000 to each of the County Councillors to spend on local projects. In addition each Local Committee has £35,000 to spend on capital projects for voluntary organisations. In Tandridge, members currently pool their funds and spend them on the following priorities:
 - to help children and young people
 - to help vulnerable people, including older people
 - to improve the local environment
 - to improve Surrey County Council's communication with local people
- 1.3 The local agreed protocol governing this process was last updated in December 2004 and is due for review. However, the Executive Committee of Surrey County Council met on Tuesday 11th September 2006 and recommended amendments to the Constitution concerning delegation of powers, which will have a direct impact on local arrangements. As the formal decision on these matters was not due to be taken by full council until October 2006, Members agreed to postpone discussion until these recommendations had been formally approved.
- 1.4 Surrey County Council Members are directed to the accompanying paper [Annex B] which sets out the background to the new constitutional amendments and the potential impact of the changes for Local Committees across the County. It also sets out options for Members to consider and agree in order to formalise locally agreed arrangements.
- 1.5 Members' recommendations will then be incorporated into the locally agreed protocol [Annex C] and Surrey County Council Members are requested to review the content and identify any further changes that they would like to make. The amended protocol will take effect from the start of the new corporate year, April 2007, and will be valid for a minimum of 12 months pending the next review.
- 1.6 As the current list of requests for funding will be dealt with under the terms of the existing locally agreed protocol, Members may wish to take these first before proceeding to discuss the local protocol.

2 NEW REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

Members have asked for 12 requests for funding to come to Committee for decision as follows:

- 2.1 **David Hodge Buses 4U new route £7000**

Funding has been received from the Surrey Student Transport Partnership towards providing a service to transport students along a route from Tatsfield to East Surrey College, taking in other education destinations, which would otherwise be difficult for students to get to. The benefits are to increase choice for students with limited access to transport and to reduce congestion on the roads by providing an alternative to those students who would otherwise be transported individually by their parents. The Buses 4U team has taken on management and maintenance of this service in addition to its core services and is asking the Committee for a contribution of £7,000 to help to establish this very popular service beyond 2007. It primarily serves the communities of North Tandridge.

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- 2.2 Nick Skellett Hurst Green Family Link Project Coffee Club £1200**
One of the spin-offs from the Family Link Project in Hurst Green is a coffee club for local families. The purpose of the group is not only social, in that it offers an opportunity for parents to meet, establish relationships and to integrate into the community, it also offers a relaxed atmosphere where the Project worker can engage with and offer support and advice to families struggling with a wide range of problems that adversely affect their quality of life. There is a proven need for this service and it is producing good results but it has encountered difficulties in securing low cost premises that can provide private space for sensitive conversations alongside good crèche facilities. Member funding would help to secure the future of the club by meeting the costs of a venue and crèche-care for the next financial year until more robust arrangements can be identified and put in place independent of the current project. The facility is open to families with children in Hurst Green and Holland schools.
- 2.3 Ken Rimington Felbridge Playground Improvements £ 8525**
Felbridge Parish Council has raised close to £50,000 towards a programme of improvements for its local playground. The bulk of the funding is now in place and work is ready to progress. The Committee is being asked to fund the purchase and installation, to required safety standards, of a seesaw, which will form a major feature of the finished work, as well as a picnic bench. Committee support would benefit local families in Felbridge and the surrounding area and would improve the local environment.
- 2.4 Ken Rimington Outwood Youth Project £2000**
The Local Committee has previously supported communities in setting up youth clubs for young people in various parts of Tandridge where there is a recognised need. The Youth Development service actively encourages and supports such initiatives, particularly in rural areas where there is little alternative provision for young people. However, they cannot provide funding and setting up costs are frequently the biggest barrier to launching a successful project. The Outwood club has the support of the local community and has received some funding from the parish council and the Village Show committee. A contribution from the Local Committee would help the Outwood group to purchase basic equipment and to become fully established, which would benefit the community of Outwood and the surrounding area.
- 2.5 Marian Myland Bletchingley Village Hall £2000**
Bletchingley Village Hall is a popular focus for community activities and is well used. As a result it is due for much needed refurbishment but does not generate sufficient funding for more than routine repairs and is currently focussing on the flooring and roof. The management committee has therefore approached various funding bodies for support. Although no formal decision has yet been taken, we understand that any contribution from the District Council would be dependent upon funding from the County Council as it will come out of their small buildings grant scheme funds, which requires a tri-partite approach. Member funding would therefore potentially lever in funding to help support the project for the benefit of Bletchingley residents and regular users of the village hall.
- 2.6 Peter Langham East Surrey Museum (Roger Packham Collection) £1860**
The East Surrey Museum in Caterham has been offered first refusal of an extensive postcard collection, depicting Tandridge scenes, valued at £10,000. They have been actively fundraising and have received pledges from various sources, including the V&A and the TDC environmental fund. The Local Committee is asked to make up the shortfall, which currently stands at £1860 so that the purchase can be completed and the collection can be secured. It has benefits as an archive historical record which will continue to appreciate over time and will be accessible to both local people and historians for research purposes.

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2.7 **Marian Myland Godstone Youth Club £1000**

Godstone Youth Club provides a valuable service to local young people in Godstone and the surrounding area and is asking the Local Committee to provide funding towards equipment for its cyber café. Members generously supported the club with a contribution towards its start up costs in December 2005. The club is now well established and actively fundraising to expand its existing facilities to accommodate more young people and has raised close to £20,000 from other sources. The committee is asked to meet the costs of a laptop, software and video games.

2.8 **Sally Marks Rotary Clock, Caterham £682**

The Rotary Clock in Caterham is an attractive focal point for the town but has unfortunately been targeted by vandals who frequently move the hands, making it unreliable as a timepiece and risking permanent damage to the working parts. In order to protect and improve it, the Local Committee has been asked to meet the costs of installing a protective acrylic cover. Member funding would improve a highly visible local facility and secure it against damage for the benefit of residents and visitors to Caterham.

2.9 **David Hodge Tatsfield in Bloom £800**

The Villages in Bloom competition encourages local communities to work together to improve the local environment and, as a result, to have a stake in maintaining it to a high standard. The Local Committee has already agreed to support Limpsfield for a second year and is now asked to contribute to costs for Tatsfield. Tandridge villages perform exceptionally well in this competition and Tatsfield has previously gone on to win Best Large Village in the South East. This not only has an impact on the local environment and involves whole communities, but the attendant publicity encourages tourism and helps stimulate the local economy.

2.10 **Peter Langham Independent Housing Opportunities Trust £490**

The Local Committee contributed to this venture when it was first launched, providing kitchen equipment for Diana Francis House. The facility is now up and running and supports a number of young disabled people to live independent lives in the community. Unfortunately, due to problems with adequately securing individual rooms to a sufficient standard, it has become impossible for the residents to obtain insurance cover for their property. In order to meet the requirements of the insurance companies, specialist locks have to be fitted to the internal doors and the residents, who are dependent upon state benefits, are unable to meet these costs. Members are therefore asked to pay for the installation of the locks so that the residents can insure their property.

2.11 **Marian Myland Lighting at Blindley Heath £300**

The Local Committee agreed funding for the installation of security lighting in order to reduce the incidence of casual theft and vandalism in its local car park/pavilion area. The Parish Council based its previous application on estimated costs supplied by the Local Transportation Service who also recommended a contractor. It was anticipated at that time that work would be completed by October 2006. The contractor has not only delayed coming out to inspect and detail the work required but the estimate is now considerably higher than that suggested initially by LTS. The parish council would like to proceed with the work as a matter of urgency but now find themselves £600 short of the revised target. While meeting the full cost of the shortfall would ensure that the work could go ahead and finally be completed, any contribution towards this total would be welcome.

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2.12 **Sally Marks 11th Caterham Scouts £1680**

This recently formed scout group based at the United Reformed Church in Caterham Valley is in a phase of expansion. Numbers are increasing across all its groups and they have a list of equipment that they need in order to develop and grow and provide challenging projects for the young people involved. They have approached a number of other funding sources for support and are asking the Local Committee to specifically provide funding for 2 of 6 much needed tents that will enable them to go camping in the summer months. The groups are open to young people in the local and surrounding areas covering a wide age range.

3 DEFERRED APPLICATIONS

- 3.1 In June 2006 Mrs Sally Marks asked the Committee to consider contributing towards a Surrey Air Ambulance. There were some concerns that this was a Countywide rather than a local initiative and the bid was deferred until it could be established whether or not a contribution would be made from Surrey County Council centrally. In the event, Surrey County Council agreed to make the largest single contribution of £50,000 and the total of £250,000 to purchase and equip an air ambulance has now been achieved.

4 CONCLUSION

Funding

- 4.1 To date, the Local Committee has committed £41,280 of its total leaving a balance of £59,720. If all of the current bids are successful and approved in full, this would leave a balance of £37,388 to the end of this financial year.
- 4.2 Applications for consideration at the next Local Committee meeting should be lodged with the Local Committee and Partnership Officer by 15th February 2007. Any funds not committed at the next committee meeting will not be carried forward. In order to make full use of the funding available, Members are encouraged to identify projects that they would like to support as early as possible.

Process

- 4.3 The process for determining how local allocations will be processed in Tandridge beyond April 2007, in the light of recent changes to the Constitution, needs to be determined and amendments to current practice applied in the forthcoming financial year. Firstly, by deciding whether or not to take advantage of the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation (see Annex B) and secondly, by reviewing the local arrangements and amending the locally agreed protocol (see Annex C).

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