



County Councillors' Local Allocations for 2006/07

23 March 2007

KEY ISSUE

To set out the funding available for County Councillors' allocations for 2006/07, and to consider the requests received.

SUMMARY

For 2006/07 the allocation for each County Councillor is £11,000. In addition a sum of £35,000 is available for the Local Committee to spend on capital projects for voluntary sector organisations in the local area, making a total of £101,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS

County Councillors are asked:

- a) to consider new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as at Annex A

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Since April 2002, Members of the Tandridge Local Committee have had a sum of money delegated to them by Surrey County Council to disburse on local projects which meet the County Council's criteria and financial arrangements and which County Council Members consider to be appropriate. This sum has varied from year to year but currently stands at £11,000 per Member plus a capital amount of £35,000 to be spent on voluntary projects.
- 1.2 Following its recent review of local practice, Members in Tandridge agreed at the last Local Committee to continue to pool their resources and to prioritise the following categories:
- 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 Following recent amendments to SCC's Constitution, Members further agreed to continue to take full responsibility for the disbursement of these funds and not to delegate extended powers to the Local Director, as this was not deemed to add any benefit to the existing local arrangements.
- 1.4 In 2006/07 Members have agreed a total of £67,432 leaving £33,568 available to allocate, of which £3,795 is capital and £29,773 is revenue.
- 1.5 Members are reminded that this is the final committee meeting of the current financial year and, under the County Council's existing financial arrangements, any of the delegated funds not committed by 31st March will not be rolled forward into the next financial year but reabsorbed into the central budget.

2 DEFERRED BIDS and UPDATES

- 2.1 **Peter Langham East Surrey Museum (Roger Packham Collection) £1860**
Members are reminded that this bid was due to be considered at the Committee meeting on 26 January but the Museum asked for it to be postponed in favour of a last minute application for funding of £4,000 in support of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund which, if successful, would ensure the future employment of its curator. The future of the Museum as an entity is not, however, dependent on the outcome of this bid as it is staffed largely by volunteers. Bearing this in mind, Members are asked to consider the following bid.
- 2.1.1 The Committee is asked for £1,860 to enable the Museum to purchase an extensive postcard collection of Tandridge scenes, valued at £10,000. As well as its interest to local residents, this collection is considered to be of importance to researchers, and the rest of the funding, which includes significant contributions from the V&A (£2500); from the District Council (£2840); from the Parish Councils and local businesses is in place. However, due to the delay, time is now becoming critical and the Museum would welcome a decision from Members.
- 2.2 **Peter Langham East Surrey Museum HLF Application £ 4,000**
The most recent information we have at the time of publication is that the application for Heritage Lottery Funding has been completed and is now being considered by an officer from the Development Opportunities Fund who will

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advise on content and presentation. When any amendments have been finalised, a summary of the application will be circulated to Members with a request for a letter of support. This will then be sent off to the HLF. No actual funding will be released until the bid has received approval. Meanwhile we will ask for £4,000 from the budget to be rolled forward into the new financial year. If the bid is subsequently unsuccessful, it will be reabsorbed into next year's budget.

3 **NEW REQUESTS FOR FUNDING**

3.1 Members have received and forwarded 11 completed applications for funding from 2006/07. For two of these, consideration is requested in principle pending further information being made available. They are as follows:

3.2 **David Hodge Warlingham Village Hall, refurbishment £3,000**

Warlingham Village Hall serves the local community and is well used. It was the subject of tripartite funding approximately 5 years ago and is now due for further refurbishment to bring it up to standard. The estimated cost of this venture is £20,000 to which the Parish Council has agreed to donate £3,000. Tandridge Local Committee is being asked to match this amount so that the early phase of this work can be completed. However, to date there are no financial records available to the Committee nor a detailed estimate of the programme costs. Members are asked whether they are prepared to consider this application in principle from the 2006/07 budget subject to the provision of the requested information.

3.3 **David Hodge Warlingham Sports Club, improvement programme £6,000**

The Warlingham Sports Club (WSC) is undertaking an ambitious programme of improvements which include an all-weather playing surface and floodlights at a total cost of £45,000. The facility is available to local residents and provides summer use to the Warlingham Village Primary School. The WSC is providing £20,000 from existing funds, £15,000 from a loan from the Surrey Playing Fields Association and is hoping to raise the remaining £10,000 from the Local Committee, the District and Parish Councils, who have yet to take a decision, and from local businesses. If they are successful, work could be completed by January 2008. The sponsor has asked for clarification on a number of points concerning this request as the Local Committee would not normally make a contribution to a general fundraising exercise until the bulk of guaranteed funding was in place and Members are asked whether they are prepared to consider this application in principle from the 2006/07 budget subject to the provision of further information.

3.4 **Ken Rimington Dormansland Parish Council, signage £2,000**

The Parish Council intends to put up two vehicle activated signs in the village High Street to restrict speed and is prepared to absorb the bulk of the cost. The work is due to be completed subject to negotiations with the Highways department. The Local Committee is being asked to contribute approximately one quarter of the cost to assist the project to go ahead. This scheme is for the benefit of local residents, visitors and highway users.

3.5 **Ken Rimington Crowhurst Village Hall, folding tables £585**

Crowhurst Village Hall provides a unique meeting point for local residents and has previously received tripartite support from the Local Committee in 2004 for essential repairs to the windows. They are currently asking the Local Committee for help with purchasing folding tables. This would benefit the local community and would help the Village Hall Committee to widen its use.

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- 3.6 **Ken Rimington Lingfield Nature Reserves, wildlife area £1570**
The Lingfield Wildlife Area is largely the result of extensive work that has been carried out by gangs of local community volunteers of all ages. It is therefore greatly valued. The next phase is habitat creation in Bloomers Field where there are existing drainage problems. The work would result in the excavation of two small areas to provide drainage by making a gully covered by a grill and inserting a culvert to divert water as well as providing a habitat for wildlife. The path through the area forms part of a safe route to school and would be greatly enhanced by the project. The benefit would be to the local community and an attractive asset to visitors.
- 3.7 **Ken Rimington Burstow Parish Council, vehicle activated sign £2,000**
Burstow Parish Council is working on a programme of speed management through the village. It has prepared lampposts in Smallfield for 3 Vehicle Activated Signs. The first is already in place, the bulk of funding for a second has already been raised and a third is required to complete the project. The signs are intended to be permanent. Members are asked to provide £2,000 to complete this programme of work. This scheme will benefit local residents, visitors and highway users.
- 3.8 **Marian Myland Bletchingley Village in Bloom £800**
The Local Committee has donated funding to two other Village in Bloom entries in 2006/07. The plans for Bletchingley include a professional survey of Hevers Pond, which is home to protected species; planting of identified sites listed and approved by the Parish Council and Highways; and regeneration of rundown and disadvantaged areas. It will involve all sections of the local community from faith groups to local businesses and schools. They have raised £500 from the Parish Council and £300 from other sources. They are asking the Local Committee to match this with a donation of £800. The competition will be judged in July 2008. There are benefits to the local community, both in terms of improved environment and residents involvement in a major project, and to visitors to the local area.
- 3.9 **Marian Myland Nutfield Village Hall, refurbishment £ 6,833**
Nutfield Village Hall is currently fundraising for refurbishment of the premises and is asking the Local Committee to fund a specific part of the programme for which they have supplied a detailed programme of work and an estimate as well as a statement of accounts. Were the Committee to pick up the total cost of this, it could be completed relatively soon. If not, the timescale would be dependent on further fundraising. It would be of benefit to the residents of Nutfield.
- 3.10 **Marian Myland Blindley Heath Youth Club £ 1,350**
Blindley Heath Youth Club is relatively new and the Local Committee has previously donated start up costs to this project. It is one of a growing number of voluntary enterprises supported by the Youth Development Team in recognition of the lack of provision for young people in Tandridge. They have a thriving membership and want to take the young people on a residential weekend trip to participate in team building and outdoor skills. This would give local young people access to facilities that don't exist locally and provide activities such as rock climbing and canoeing for mixed ability 11- to 16-year-olds. The costs are estimated at £135 - £162 per head depending on age. They are making efforts to fundraise locally but will need to have guaranteed funding in place to enable them to book places for summer 2007.

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3.11 **Peter Langham Caterham Lunch Club £2000**

The Caterham Lunch Club provides a weekly service to approximately 10 -15 vulnerable adults discharged from mental health services who might otherwise experience isolation in the community. The £2,000 they are asking for represents about half of their total outlay and secures an appropriate venue. The Club has raised the balance from small donations from a number of local businesses. A grant from the Local Committee would allow them to continue to operate in 2007/08.

3.12 **Sally Marks Surrey Air Ambulance £6150**

Surrey Air Ambulance funding of £250,000 has been raised and the helicopter can now be purchased. The next phase is to kit it out with essential items. From a list provided by the fundraisers, Mrs Marks has identified two items of life-saving equipment which she would like colleagues to consider.

These are one-off purchases and total £6,150.

4 **CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 From a total of £101,000, if these were all to be agreed, the budget would be over-committed by a total of £580 and Members would then be asked to prioritise which are essential to this year's budget.
- 4.2 However, should some of these be deferred or rejected there may be a potential underspend. At the end of the last financial year, Members agreed that the balance should be spent on Taxi Vouchers. Members may wish to consider appropriate use of any potential underspend in this financial year.
- 4.3 Any future bids for funding will be dependent on the announcement of the SCC Executive budget for 2007/08 but Members should bear in mind that the next formal Local Committee meeting will be on 22 June 2008 and any potential applications should be received no less than four weeks in advance.

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