



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2008/09

6 March 2009

#### KEY ISSUE

To set out the funding available to County Councillors from the delegated budget for 2008/09 and to consider requests received.

#### SUMMARY

Surrey County Council's Local Committees receive delegated funding to allocate to local and community organisations and projects that meet specific social, economic or environmental needs within the parameters of its espoused priorities.

For 2008/09 the allocation to each County Councillor is £11,000 revenue funding. In addition each Local Committee received a further £35,000 to spend on capital projects for voluntary sector organisations in the local area, making a total of £101,000 available to Tandridge Local Committee. This will be the final report of the financial year.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Tandridge Local Committee is asked to:**

- (i) Consider new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as set out in Annex A
- (ii) Formally agree in-principle agreements from 5 December 2008 (see para 2.2).

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council's Local Committees receive delegated funding to allocate to local and community organisations and projects that meet specific social, economic or environmental needs within the parameters of its espoused priorities.
- 1.2 At the annual budget meeting in February 2008, this was set at £11,000 revenue per County Councillor plus £35,000 per Local Committee for capital projects. As the six Surrey County Council Members of Tandridge Local Committee have elected to pool their individual allocations, this makes a total of £101,000 for Tandridge Local Committee.

## 2 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- 2.1 A sum of £5,000 is being held in reserve for the Coneybury Playground initiative as agreed on 3 October 2008 as a contribution to an unspecified part of the project. They are making good progress with fundraising and pledges and anticipate that the project will be completed by summer 2009. We will therefore ask for the funding to be rolled forward into next year for them to draw on as plans near completion.
- 2.2 A bid from the Friends of Marden Lodge for play equipment was agreed in principle at the meeting on 5 December, pending potential change of use. The project organisers have since asked that their original application go ahead unaltered. The Committee is therefore asked to confirm the decision so that funding can be released.

## 3 FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Thirteen applications for funding have been received by the deadline for the March committee, as follows:
- 3.2 **Chaldon Women's Institute - £745** sponsored by Mr Peter Langham  
The Women's Institute is very active in Chaldon and, operating on a not for profit basis, their members raise funds for local charities. They depend on their Secretaries, who change on an annual basis, to provide their own IT for record keeping and correspondence, but this is not always possible and, seriously limits what they can achieve. With the Committee's support they would like to buy a small laptop that will fill this gap and improve continuity.
- 3.3 **Ramblers' Association - £100** sponsored by Mr Nicholas Skellett. The Ramblers' Association, in conjunction with Surrey County Council, does voluntary work in repairing and maintaining styles on public footpaths running across private land in the local area across Surrey. Surrey County Council pays for the tools and equipment but the local Tandridge group have asked for a small contribution to purchase plaques to put up on the styles they have repaired to acknowledge this on-going work.

- 3.4 **CR3 Skaterham - £4,980** sponsored by Mr Peter Langham. This project provides a space for young people to skate or use their BMX bikes in a secure environment off the public highway while also working with young people to support them. It is very popular with local young people and is well used. As a not-for-profit organisation, they would like the Committee's support to help to maintain and replace some items of equipment. While primarily offering a service to Caterham on the Hill, the facility is available to young people across Tandridge.
- 3.5 **Whyteleafe Tennis Club –£650** sponsored by Mrs Sally Marks. The tennis club originally approached Committee with a request for help when their pavilion was burned down in an arson attack. Matching funding provided by the District Council, the Local Committee was able to support them to replace and refurbish a new concrete structure. They were asked at that time to provide evidence of their contribution to the wider community and they have since provided us with a report on progress, which demonstrates that they have been in contact with local guide and scout troupes and local schools to offer use of the premises and training to young people in the community. However, the site is still vulnerable and they would like to install security equipment. A contribution from Members would allow this to go ahead.
- 3.6 **Tandridge Access Group - £2,500** sponsored by Mr David Hodge. The Tandridge Access Group is a small voluntary organisation which visits local premises and negotiates improved access to shops and facilities on behalf of disabled people. It regularly produces local guides for disabled people which list premises and grade their compliance on accessibility. More recently they have become involved with DisabledGo which is a national website doing much the same thing and which has contracts with 60 local councils. On behalf of Tandridge District Council, TAG has contracted for 500 sites in Tandridge. With the Committee's support, they would like to make the details available in hard copy for the benefit of those Tandridge residents who do not have access to a computer.
- 3.7 **Tatsfield in Bloom - £800** sponsored by Mr David Hodge. Tatsfield is a pretty village which has done well over the years in the Villages in Bloom competitions at a number of levels and, as a result, the village continues to look attractive and to promote a sense of community and ownership. The Committee also supports Limpsfield and, more recently, Bletchingley, and Members have acknowledged the many benefits to their respective communities for a comparatively small outlay. Tatsfield is therefore asking for their continuing support for 2009.
- 3.8 **Taxi Vouchers - £4,340** sponsored by Mr David Hodge. The Taxi Voucher scheme in Tandridge has been extremely successful and, due to its popularity, tends to have a waiting list. Any funding which the Local Committee is able to offer goes towards reducing that list. There is currently £3,240 available if all other bids are successful and Committee is asked to direct this towards the local Taxi Voucher scheme.

- 3.9 **Lingfield Football Club - £3,450** sponsored by Mr Ken Rimington. Lingfield Football Club depends upon its membership fees to raise funds and, as it was targeted by vandals some months ago resulting in damage to nets and equipment, their resources are committed to making good. However, their pitch runs adjacent to a main road and they need to erect safety netting to prevent footballs from being kicked out over the wall into traffic, and to discourage their younger players from chasing after them. Erecting nets would benefit the club but would also benefit road users in Lingfield which is why they have approached Committee for support.
- 3.10 **Bletchingley in Bloom - £840** sponsored by Mrs Marian Myland. As with the earlier bid for Tatsfield, participating in the Villages in Bloom competition has been hugely beneficial to Bletchingley which will be competing for the second time next year. It has proved extremely popular with local residents who are becoming increasingly ambitious in what they are trying to achieve in improving the village, encouraged by their success last year. The benefits of the work that goes into competing are that the villages look more attractive, attract publicity which boosts the local economy and also engenders a sense of ownership and participation in the local community.
- 3.11 **Buses 4U - £15,000** sponsored by Mr David Hodge. There will be an information report in the transportation section of the March meeting which will inform Members of the progress made by the service since it was first introduced. Members have continued to offer support, as Buses 4 U has proved popular and successful in the local area where it augments the mainstream bus service and it is particularly useful in the more rural areas. The original buses are now nearing the end of their useful life and, because the scheme runs at a minimum cost, there are no large reserves to draw on for replacement. Committee is therefore asked to make a contribution to ensure that this can be done within the next 12 months.
- 3.12 **Tandridge Voluntary Service Council - £3,000** sponsored by Mr Nicholas Skellett/Mr David Hodge. (NOTE: The original bid was sponsored by Mr Nicholas Skellett and the Chairman has approved amendments in his absence.) The Tandridge Voluntary Service Council (TVSC) is currently in negotiation with its core funders, Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council and the Primary Care Trust to review its services and funding from April 2009. As part of this package, they will take possession of a large area of the first floor of Oxted Library where they will act as lessee on behalf of CAB and other, as yet unidentified, voluntary organisations. Both local authorities are keen to support the move as it will co-locate the clinic, library and advice centre on a permanent basis, providing a more accessible service to vulnerable people. A DDA compliant lift will be installed within the coming months but, for logistical reasons, the move is planned for the first week in April. TVSC would therefore welcome support from Committee for its relocation costs and essential repairs to the premises in the meantime.

- 3.13 **Caterham Business Partnership - £1000** – sponsored by Mrs Sally Marks. In the current economic climate, local businesses need the support of local shoppers and to address the downturn to keep the town centre alive and vibrant. To address this, the CBP has launched a Shop Smart, Shop Local campaign to encourage people to use local businesses. Their plans include, amongst other things, introducing a loyalty card and leafleting the local area. They are asking for a contribution towards their costs, not only for the financial benefit, but to demonstrate that they have the active support of the local authority in promoting the scheme to local businesses and residents.
- 3.14 **CR3 Soldiers - £380** In response to the negative publicity surrounding the behaviour of young people on Caterham Hill where, until April of this year, a dispersal order was put in place by the Police, local people have been looking for local solutions. One of these was to set up a group, operating out of de Stafford School, to address the needs of local young people. The work has primarily been carried out by young people calling themselves CR3 Soldiers who, to date, have carried out an audit of local provision and given presentations to local residents and agencies. They now want to send their young people on a leadership training course and, as they have no other source of income, would welcome the support of the Committee.

#### **4 OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Local Committee may choose to approve all, any or none of the proposals under discussion. Constitutionally, Members are not required to provide a reason for declining an application but may elect to do so.

#### **5 CONSULTATIONS**

- 5.1 Consultation, where appropriate, may have been undertaken by the organisation receiving funding, the local Member or the Local Partnerships Team as required, depending on the nature of the project, and further details are available on request.

#### **6 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Local Committee delegated revenue funding for 2008/09 is £66,000 plus £35,000 capital, totalling £101,000. At the last meeting of the Local Committee on 5 December, bids totalling £39,640 were approved. If all the current bids, totalling £37,785 are approved the budget for 2008/09 will be fully spent. [Note: A breakdown of capital and revenue costs is indicated in Annex A.]

## **7 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Local Committee funding is available to all residents, community groups or organisations based in, or serving, Tandridge and places no further restrictions on who may apply. The success of a bid depends entirely upon its ability to meet the locally agreed criteria, which are flexible and cover a wide-ranging and diverse variety of projects. The local priorities specifically target vulnerable adults and children, and Member funding continues to support projects which benefit disadvantaged local people.

## **8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Local Committee funding may also be allocated to projects that benefit a diverse range of community safety needs.

## **9 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The spending proposals put forward for this meeting have been assessed against the County standards for appropriateness and value for money within the agreed Financial Framework and the locally agreed protocol.
- 9.2 The Local Committee is asked to consider the items submitted for funding from the 2008/09 Local Committee delegated budgets as detailed in the report and to formally approve any in-principle decisions from the last meeting.

## **10 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 All projects under consideration have been sponsored by, and have the support of, the appropriate Local Member. As funding for Tandridge Local Committee is pooled, Members are requested to consider them as a group and to decide on whether or not to approve them.

## **11 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 11.1 If approved by the Local Committee, organisations will be approached to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.
- 11.2 Any changes to an approved bid will be discussed with the local Member and the Chairman and, if the changes are considered to be significant, an amended bid will be brought back to Committee for approval.
- 11.3 In all other circumstances the Local Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible once the signed agreement has been received.

11.4 Within three months of receipt, all successful applicants will be contacted for details of how the funding was spent and will be asked to supply evidence.

11.5 Funding arrangements for 2009/10 are currently under discussion and, pending the election on 4 June, no new bids can be accepted until the financial position and membership of the Committee have been established. In the meantime, late bids are being held in a waiting list and will be reviewed in July.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Local Committee Funding Bids