



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2008/09

20 June 2008

#### 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.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Tandridge Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the expenditure for 2007/08.
- (ii) Consider new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as set out in Annex A, and
- (iii) Following the annual review of local protocols, formally approve amendments to the local funding protocol for Tandridge Local Committee set out in Annex B.

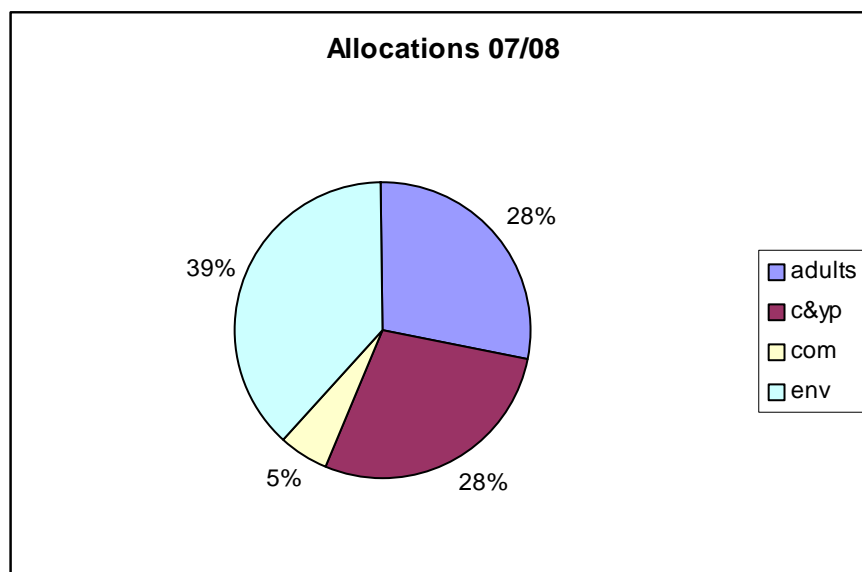
## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 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 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.
- 1.3 The County Council also delegated £100,000 capital funding to each Local Committee to support highways projects. The Local Highways Manager provides separate reports on this funding. [Item 13].

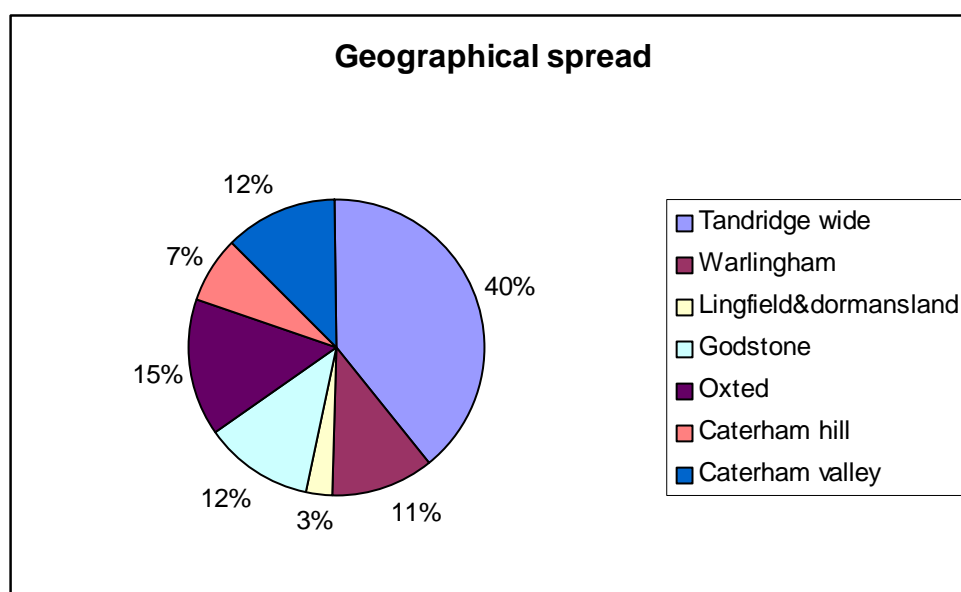
## **2 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING IN TANDRIDGE**

- 2.1 Since they were set up in April 2002, Local Committees have supported a variety of local initiatives and groups across Surrey. In general their funding has tended to support the County's espoused priorities as reflected in its Strategic Plan.
- 2.2 In most other parts of Surrey, Members have retained individual responsibility for deciding which initiatives they will fund and this frequently results in a reluctance to commit funding early in the year or to give sums of money in excess of £1,000 - £2,000. Occasionally, some Members will combine their funding to enable a larger project to go ahead but this is the exception rather than the rule.
- 2.3 In Tandridge Members pooled their resources from the start, enabling them to commit funding, regardless of geographical boundaries, to a wide range of projects at the level that is required, without these constraints. Funding therefore tends to be spent in four, more or less, equal amounts throughout the course of the financial year. Projects supported range from £150 - £20,000 and the Committee is very rarely under spent at year-end. The average number of approved applications in a given year tends to be between 30 and 40. At the end of 2007/08, for the first time, it carried forward a waiting list into this financial year.
- 2.4 Local Committee funding has been used for a wide range of purposes, from promoting environmental community projects, such as the very successful In Bloom competitions, for which three of our villages have achieved awards, to funding a day at the seaside for full time carers. It has also supported the provision of parenting skills training, provided by Family Links, and pram walks, a Primary Care Trust initiative that benefits new mums who are struggling with postnatal depression.

- 2.5 While the Committee does have some guidelines and parameters to adhere to, such as not providing core funding to agencies, or not giving to general fundraisers, it retains the right to consider each application on its merits and, another benefit of pooled funding, this means that exceptions can be made, provided a majority of the Members are in agreement.
- 2.6 In 2007/08 the largest single allocation, £10,000, was made to the Youth Forum. Representatives from the forum have, over the last three years, attended Local Committee to explain how the funding has been disbursed and who has benefited. By its very nature, the Youth Forum has a high turnover of members as they progress from school to university, college or work, and it requires a great deal of support from the Youth Service to maintain its momentum. Unfortunately, due to staffing difficulties, the continuity has been lost over the past year and the money remains unspent.
- 2.7 However, undaunted, the Youth Service has devised a new way of interacting with young people that will enable them to participate in the decision-making process and has requested that the Committee allows them time to set up a virtual Forum on-line which young people across Tandridge can access. If it proves successful, it is envisaged that the funding will be used in this financial year. In order for all young people to be involved, including those who are hard to reach or who do not have ready access to the internet, part of the funding will be used to provide mobile internet access on the Youth Bus and Info Bus. Further progress reports will follow throughout the year.
- 2.8 The following chart shows the distribution of spend in 2007/8.



- 2.9 Expenditure on environmental projects has increased dramatically but this is because of changes to the category definitions. Any improvements to premises previously categorised as being of benefit to vulnerable adults or children and young people is now included under this more general heading.
- 2.10 Geographically, the largest proportion of funding benefited residents all across Tandridge, while the bulk of the funding spent in divisions was shared across the largest centres of population, Caterham and Oxted with Godstone and Warlingham close behind. Traditionally there have always been fewer applications from the rural south although some Lingfield requests arrived too late in the financial year and were carried forward.



- 2.11 In all, 40 applications were approved and the feedback has been positive.

### 3 AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL PROTOCOL

- 3.1 Members are asked to review the local protocols for allocation funding on an annual basis and to suggest amendments. At a recent informal meeting, on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008 they agreed informally to vary the protocol in two respects:
- 3.2 Para 3 Timing (see Annex B) to read: That Members should forward the details [of allocations] to the Local Partnerships Team, preferably prior to agenda planning but no later than **14** (rather than 7 as previously) working days prior to despatch.

- 3.3 A further para (8) (see Annex B) be added as follows: Provisos - The Local Committee will not fund any agency or project which can more appropriately be funded elsewhere.
- 3.4 This was intended to apply to parish councils, schools, or other agencies independently receiving money from the public purse.
- 3.5 The amended protocol is attached at Annex B and Members are requested to formalise their decision in the officers recommendations.

#### **4 FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 4.1 Ten applications for funding have been received by the deadline for the June committee, as follows:

**4.2 David Hodge Key Safes £5,500**

In partnership with Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council has provided funding towards the Handyman Scheme which offers a care and repair service to vulnerable local people. Through this scheme, many properties now have a key safe facility, which allows emergency services to access their premises in an emergency without breaking down the door. A key safe costs £55.00 and this funding will purchase 100. The scheme has proved so successful that the previous funding has been fully used and stocks are now very low. Committee funding will perpetuate the scheme for a further year or more.

**4.3 Ken Rimington NCYPE Playground shelter £ 7,000**

Member support will allow a playground shelter to be built in the grounds of St Piers in Lingfield. Although NCYPE takes children from outside Tandridge as well those who qualify locally, it does have strong community links and will provide a site for a Children's Centre, which will directly benefit local children. The shelter will provide a safe breakout area in the open air where children and families can have some quiet time.

**4.4 Peter Langham CR3 (Skaterham) £2,445**

CR3 provides much needed provision for young people in Caterham on the Hill but it struggles to meet its financial obligations. Committee support would provide the updating of some of their well used equipment as well as paying for First Aid requalifying courses for staff and volunteers. Given the nature of their provision, this is essential for them to be able to operate safely and to safeguard the children and young people who access the project.

**4.5 Marian Myland Godstone Primary School £1,500**

Following on from an incident where a mixed race child in a predominantly white school was experiencing difficulty in integrating, the

school has established links with a predominantly black school in Stockwell with a view to raising awareness of, and addressing, issues of racism. They are approaching this in a very positive way, focussing on celebrating culture. They intend to put on an event that will include, not only the children but their families and the wider community, by staging events to include dance troupes, artists, and so on. The school is providing the drive and energy to make this a success and they are happy to fundraise for future events. Member support will get them off to a strong start.

#### **4.6 Ken Rimington Lingfield Primary School £1,000**

Members are asked to provide 12 piano style keyboards and headphones to enable children who would not otherwise have access to a keyboard instrument to learn about music. Apart from their daily use in school, it is anticipated that these will be used in after school clubs and will be available to community groups.

#### **4.7 Ken Rimington Dormansland Primary School Trim Trail £2,000**

Dormansland Primary School is raising funds for a Trim Trail for use by children aged 4 – 12 who attend the school and groups in the wider community, such as cubs and brownies, playgroups, etc. It will cost around £18,000 and they have raised £16,000 already. They are asking the Committee to provide £2000 which will specifically meet the purchase and installation costs of two pieces of equipment: a tyre challenge and traversing net. Trim trails have been proven to encourage children to be more physical and to use their energy constructively adding to their general fitness and wellbeing.

#### **4.8 Peter Langham East Surrey Carers Association Day Out £3,500**

Following on the success of last summer's event, the ESCA has asked if the Local Committee would be prepared to sponsor another similar event this year. Member funding pays for the hire of a bus and for a meal for those attending as well as covering the costs of having the person they care for being looked after while they are away. For many full time carers, this represents one of the few opportunities they have to take some time for themselves and it is invaluable in allowing them to recharge their batteries. Projects such as these enable social care services to keep their costs down by supporting vulnerable people to remain at home as long as possible.

#### **4.9 Sally Marks 3<sup>rd</sup> Caterham Scouts £1,130**

The Scouts have recently acquired a trailer and 8 kayaks intended to be used for skills training in Caterham and the surrounding area including Chaldon, Whyteleafe, Hamsey Green and Warlingham, involving some 200 children of both genders. However they need adult volunteers to take the children safely onto the water and to comply with Health and Safety regulations. Committee support would pay for full training for adults which they aim to achieve by the end of this financial year.

#### **4.10 Nick Skellett 1<sup>st</sup> Hurst Green Scouts leverage BIFFA £2,500**

Hurst Green Scouts are currently fundraising to replace their meeting hall, which was the subject of an arson attack, and to provide a Community venue that can be used by other local community groups. The total cost is likely to be in the region of £300,000 and they are fundraising hard to meet this target and have already achieved over half the total. They would like the Committee's help to lever in funding from BIFFA and have requested £2,500 capital in respect of their current bid.

#### **4.11 Nick Skellett Bluehouse Festival £600**

The Committee has previously supported the Bluehouse Festival which is run by volunteers on a break-even basis and charges an entry fee at minimum cost to pay for a wide range of Arts events over the period of a week in October. The Committee funding subsidises an event that can be accessed free by Tandridge school children and the organisers work closely with the schools on this. Usually this involves inviting a high profile and popular children's author to come and meet the children and stimulate their enthusiasm for books and writing. This supports the literacy agenda and is also fun for local children.

### **5 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 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.

### **6 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 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.

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

- 7.1 Local Committee delegated revenue funding for 2008/09 is £66,000 plus £35,000 capital, totalling £101,000. If all the current bids, totalling £27,175 are agreed this will leave a balance of £72,825. [Note: A breakdown of capital and revenue costs is indicated in Annex A.]

### **8 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/tandridge](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/tandridge)

- 8.1 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.

## **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 Amendments made to the Local Protocol for allocations be formally approved and adopted as best practice.

## **11 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 Members have discussed and agreed the amendments to the Local Protocol and are being asked to formalise them through recommendations.

## **12 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 12.1 If approved by the Local Committee, organisations will be approached to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.
- 12.2 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.

- 12.3 In all other circumstances the Local Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible once the signed agreement has been received.
- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 Except in exceptional circumstances, and at the Chairman's discretion, any proposals for consideration at the next formal Local Committee should reach the Local Committee and Partnership Officer no later than 25<sup>th</sup> August 2008.
- 12.6 The Local Protocol amendments will take immediate effect from the point where they have been formally approved by Committee.

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