



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2008/09

3 October 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) Consider new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as set out in Annex A

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.

2 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- 2.1 Local Committee approved a bid for £2,500 from 1st Hurst Green Scouts for leverage funding in support of their application to Biffa. We have now been informed that that bid has been unsuccessful and the funding has been returned to the account. However, they will be making further applications to other funding bodies and would appreciate the continued support of the Local Committee in their efforts to replace their premises.
- 2.2 At the last meeting of the Local Committee, Mrs Myland asked for support for a hand rail to be installed in Kentwyns Drive and it was her intention to arrange for a bid to be brought to the October meeting. However, since then the Parish Council has agreed to take this forward and the application has not been pursued.

3 FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Ten applications for funding have been received by the deadline for the June committee, as follows:
- 3.2 Surrey Fire & Rescue Service has approached the Local Committee with two bids, which have been sponsored by the Chairman:

Safe Drive Stay Alive - £5,000 SF&RS has hosted a major annual high impact event in Dorking Halls which sends out a hard-hitting message to new and learner drivers about the consequences of a road traffic collision resulting in injury and death. It is intended to raise awareness and to encourage young people to take particular care on the road as they are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users. This year they have lost a major sponsor and are reviewing the way they get the message across to as many young people as possible. They are asking all 11 Local Committees to contribute £5,000 each to enable them to commission an updated video that can be used across the county to fill the gap left by the presentations.

Youth Engagement Scheme – £1000 Surrey Fire & Rescue Service provides a 5-day programme, based on a fire station, for young people aged 14 – 17 to address personal development and anti-social behaviour, particularly around fire and vehicle related crime. It is part of an intervention package, in partnership with the Youth Justice Service and Education Welfare, which runs over a longer period. The Committee's contribution will enable the purchase of equipment. SF&RS have also approached the local Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership for some revenue funding which will enable 3 – 4 Tandridge young people to participate in this financial year.

- 3.3 **Coneybury Playground – up to £5,000** – sponsored by Marian Myland. Funding is requested for a much-needed modern play facility in Bletchingley. The applicants are working with the District Council to ensure that this goes ahead in the current financial year and most of the funding is in place. Committee is asked to contribute the cost of specific items of equipment. As exact costs were not available at the time of printing, Mrs Myland will introduce this item and present the details.
- 3.4 **Nutfield War Memorial Maintenance £885** – sponsored by Marian Myland. The Royal British Legion takes responsibility for the upkeep of this war memorial and, although Tandridge District provides general maintenance, the memorial now needs more of a facelift to restore the lettering, which is a skilled job requiring the services of a stone mason. Local Committee funding will improve the appearance of a local landmark.
- 3.5 **Chevron Driving School - £840** – sponsored by Nick Skellett. While the Chevron Driving School is a private company, it has for the past two years been providing, at its own expense, courses in local schools working with 16 year olds before they learn to drive, to try to influence attitudes. The aim is to teach young people to become safe and responsible drivers, dealing with the effects of speed, peer pressure and alcohol. It also raises awareness of the longer-term affects of incidents on the licence holder. This is a similar message to Safe Drive Stay Alive but deals with a younger age group. The Confederation of Tandridge Schools has shown some interest but will not be able to fund them until next year. Local Committee is therefore asked to sponsor a series of courses in Oxted School in this financial year.
- 3.6 **Christmas Lights installation - £350** – sponsored by Marian Myland. Godstone Parish Council has purchased new Christmas lights from donations from local businesses and organisations and, with advice from Highways lighting, has installed a timer and fittings. However, they now find that, following a site visit with Highways and the Police, putting up the lights will necessitate the installation and operation of temporary traffic lights. This is an unexpected cost that had not been budgeted for and they are asking the Local Committee for help in ensuring that the scheme can go ahead.
- 3.7 **Limpsfield in Bloom £950** – sponsored by Nick Skellett. Limpsfield has an extremely good record in the In Bloom competitions. In 2007 they won a gold in the large village category and were subsequently entered into the Britain In Bloom competition in 2008. Further funding will allow them to enter the South and South East in Bloom competition in 2009. Apart from

the competition success, which encourages tourism and boosts the local economy, the project volunteers work hard to involve the whole community and to improve the local environment.

- 3.8 **Chaldon Amateur Dramatic Society £1450** – sponsored by Peter Langham Committee is asked to contribute to the purchase and installation of a demountable apron in Chaldon Village Hall. The Chaldon Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) use the hall on a regular basis and put on productions for the benefit of the community. However, the hall is used for other purposes and it is important that the stage can be safely removed and stowed away when not in use. There are health and safety concerns about the existing facilities and CADS have fundraised the majority of the cost of a new, and safer, unit. A contribution from the Local Committee will allow work to proceed in time for the Christmas festivities.

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 bids totalling £27,175 were approved. £2,500 capital was subsequently returned. If all the current bids, totalling £15,490 are approved, this will leave a balance of £60,835. [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.
- 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.
- 9.3 Amendments made to the Local Protocol for allocations be formally approved and adopted as best practice.

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 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 24th October 2008.

If this is likely to pose a problem, Members should contact the local office to discuss it.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Local Committee Funding Bids