



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

### **COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2008/09**

**5 December 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 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 while the rest of the funding is being raised on the understanding that, if this is not achieved within 12 months, the funding will be returned to the central budget and reassigned. Fundraising is still ongoing at this time and there is no agreed timescale for completion.

## 3 FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Eight applications for funding have been received by the deadline for the December committee, as follows:
- 3.2 **Lingfield Wildlife Area - £3,500** sponsored by Mr Ken Rimington  
The Wildlife Area in Lingfield is a volunteering initiative which has involved a large part of the local community including children from a very young age. What it has achieved over the years is to take a piece of unused communal space and to make it attractive and productive. The Committee has in previous years helped with materials to improve the pathway - which was prone to waterlogging and has now been improved and widened to take wheelchairs - and to provide basic materials for a wetland feature. They would now welcome member support to provide an interpretation board. Although the group will manage it and provide the information on display, the cost will include professional artwork and a solid vandal proof structure. The community is justifiably proud of what they have achieved and would like it to be more accessible to visitors but they have suffered from random vandalism and would like to ensure that this feature will last well into the future.
- 3.3 **Disability Challengers Oxted Summer Playscheme - £5,000** sponsored by Mr Nicholas Skellett. Disability Challengers works in partnership with Surrey County Council to provide services to young disabled people across Surrey. Among their various projects they provide summer playschemes which give these young people opportunities to play in a safe environment

where they are well looked after and can socialise and try new things. The schemes also provide some welcome respite for carers when the schools are closed for the summer break. Due to the high costs of staffing, specialist equipment and events, these projects are expensive to run and, because of their popularity, require some financial input from parents to secure a place. While Social Services will offer some support to families with extreme needs, any support given to the organisers will help to make more places available. The event will be held in Limpsfield Grange but will provide a service that will include children from a wider catchment area.

**3.4 Woldingham Garden Village Memorial Hall refurbishment - £5,000**

sponsored by Mrs Sally Marks. This World War II structure has been a central feature of community life in Woldingham but has fallen into a state of disrepair. In order to bring it back up to an acceptable standard and to provide a modern facility for the local community, the management committee is currently fundraising with a target of close to £20,000. However, there is an immediate need to replace the heating system in order to safeguard the fabric of the building from further deterioration over the winter months and they would also like to improve access for disabled users. The initial costs are in the region of £7,000 and contributions towards this would be greatly appreciated.

**3.5 Friends of Marden Lodge play equipment - £2,500** – sponsored by Mrs Sally Marks. The school is situated in an area of Caterham that is accepted to have a relatively high level of social need. It also involves itself in the community and is used as a base by a number of social groups in the evenings and at weekends, including providing a venue for children whose parents are separated or divorced to spend time with their fathers in a safe and happy environment. The PTA is very active in fundraising and has recently spent a great deal of money replacing a swimming pool roof. They are now very keen to provide a trim trail for use by local children, whether or not they attend the school, to support Healthy Living. They would like the Committee to contribute specifically towards a climbing frame, which is estimated at £3,300.

**3.6 Caterham Arts Festival start up costs - £1,500** sponsored by Mrs Sally Marks. The recent Health Check in Caterham carried out by local volunteers with the support of the Local Authorities to look at the quality of life in Caterham and the surrounding area recently published its findings, and made some recommendations. One of these is to host an Arts Festival to promote the arts locally and to celebrate local culture. This is intended to culminate in a major event in the summer. Tickets will be sold to offset the cost of specific events but there are some initial costs that need to be met, such as leaflets and advertising. The organisers from ABC – A Better Caterham – would welcome the Committee's support to cover these expenses.

- 3.7 **Oxted Community Hall Play Area - £8,265** sponsored by Mr Nicholas Skellett. Members previously supported the Oxted Community Hall with a contribution to leverage in funding from Biffa which enabled the initial build to proceed. Although the hall is now fully operational and is an attractive and popular community resource, the project is still carrying a small deficit of around £20,000 and, until that is paid, will be unable to commission any further work. Unfortunately, work stopped short of completing the play area to the rear of the building. This final piece of work would not only improve the look of the exterior but would allow the nursery groups which use it to operate outdoors in the summer months. The management committee is therefore asking the Committee for help to complete this final part of the project.
- 3.8 **Thursday Lunch Club - £2,000** sponsored by Peter Langham. The lunch club is run solely by volunteers for the benefit of local residents with a history of mental health problems who find it difficult to integrate fully into the community. It is primarily an opportunity for extremely vulnerable people to socialise in a safe and friendly environment. While its costs are relatively low for what it provides, the group finds it difficult to fundraise enough to cover its costs as most of its donations are for small amounts and they are, again, asking the Committee to help meet the annual cost of their venue.
- 3.9 **Outwood Cricket Club - £1,500** sponsored by Mr Ken Rimington. Outwood Cricket Club serves a very rural area and is a large part of the fabric of the community. Recently they had the misfortune to lose their pavilion and subsequently to discover that the insurance was inadequate to meet the cost of a replacement to standards imposed by the National Trust, whose land it is on. All of their funds have therefore been directed to addressing this major problem and they have very little left over for essential routine maintenance. Their tractor, which is used for grass cutting, desperately needs a new engine and they would be grateful for the Committee's help to ensure that the Club can continue to function during this difficult time. Although there is no local school to link to, the Club maintains a thriving junior membership and provides a local focal point for summer events.

## 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 3 October, bids totalling £15,490 were approved. If all the current bids, totalling £29,265 are approved, this will leave a balance of £31,570. [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.

## **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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2008.
- 11.6 Members are reminded that the final committee meeting of this financial year is on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and they should ensure that the remaining available funding is fully committed.

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