



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2009/10

3 July 2009

KEY ISSUE

To set out the funding available to County Councillors from the delegated budget for 2009/10 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 2009/10 the allocation to each County Councillor is £8,250 revenue funding. In addition each Local Committee receives a further £35,000 to spend on capital projects for voluntary sector organisations in the local area, making a total of £84,500 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 2009, this was set at £8,250 revenue per County Councillor plus £35,000 per Local Committee for capital projects. This makes a total of £84,500 for Tandridge Local Committee as a whole which represents a reduction of 25% revenue on last year.
- 1.3 Tandridge Local Committee normally reviews its priorities and, if necessary, amends its local protocols at the first meeting of each corporate and financial year. However, due to the recent County Council elections on 4 June 2009, half of the Tandridge Members are new to the County Council, if not to the Local Committee, and may need time to consider their options. It has therefore been agreed to defer this aspect of the report until the next formal meeting in October when a full report will be brought detailing the breakdown of expenditure for 2008/09 and encompassing any recommended changes. In the meantime it will take decisions on any outstanding applications in accordance with the existing arrangements.

2 FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 In the run up to the election Members were unable to accept applications for funding and any applications received during that time were held by the Local Partnerships Team pending the outcome. These have now been forwarded to the relevant Members in each division for their consideration and, although the timing has been tight, the following have been officially sponsored. It should be noted that any which have missed the deadline for this meeting may be brought to the next one on 2 October 2009.
- 2.2 Details of all the bids have been circulated to Members prior to the meeting but brief summaries are included here for convenience.
- 2.3 **Godstone at Play (GAP) - £5000** sponsored by Mr Tony Elias.
The playground on Godstone Green is badly in need of upgrading as some of the equipment is over 30 years old. GAP is therefore chasing funding for a revamp of the site to modern standards. They have approached the Local Committee for support in purchasing a specific item called Skygame and associated safety surface. If they achieve their fundraising target of £75,000 work will begin in summer 2010. A similar bid from Bletchingley was successful last year.
- 2.4 **Limpsfield Chart Cricket Club - £3000** sponsored by Mr Nicholas Skellett.
The Cricket Club is undertaking an ambitious overhaul of its constitution, training provision and premises which, in the latter case, have fallen below acceptable safety standards. The total cost of the project is around

£22,000, of which more than half is already pledged, and work is underway. A contribution from the Local Committee would replace the pavilion roof. Although based in Limpsfield Chart, it has members from across Tandridge. The Club's facilities are available to the wider community and local schools make full use of it.

- 2.5 **Bletchingley Village Hall - £500** sponsored by Mr Tony Elias. The WI are applying on behalf of the users of the village hall for the installation of a projector screen. The screen would be a permanent feature available to all users. The village hall has no budget for this and the WI's funds are limited but it would be a well-used and popular facility for the many clubs and societies which use the village hall.
- 2.6 **TVSC move to Oxted Library up to £10,000** sponsored by Mr Nick Skellett. The Committee approved a grant of £3,000 to TVSC in March on the understanding that more costs were likely to be incurred and that further support would be needed once the costs had been confirmed. It is now clear that the shortfall is in the region of £10,000. Some of this may be recouped via other funding sources but in order for work to begin, they needed a pledge that Committee would underwrite the total cost. This was agreed in principle at an informal meeting of the Local Committee in April but has to be formally approved before the funding can be released.
- 2.7 **Caterham Evening Villager Service up to £9,000** sponsored by Mr Nick Skellett. Again this was agreed in principle at the informal Local Committee meeting in April and needs to be formally approved. The funding will pay for a 12 month pilot of an extension of the local bus service between the Hill and the Valley after the existing service ends at 6.30. Primarily it is intended to transport young people to and from the new youth facility and adult learners to and from de Stafford School, following the closure of the Adult Education building in the Valley. However, the Caterham Health Check findings showed that it would also be of benefit to rail commuters. The parish councils have expressed an interest and will decide at their meetings on 8 July how much they are prepared to contribute. By underwriting the full cost in the meantime, advertising can begin in time for the service to start in September 2009,
- 2.8 **Caterham Youth Centre - £8000** sponsored by Mrs Sally Marks. The new youth facility in Caterham Valley is being designed in partnership with the young people who will use it. One of the projects to come out of this is the installation of an internet café. The Youth Development team have therefore submitted a bid for computer equipment. The Committee previously supported a similar facility at Harry's in Oxted and it has proved to be extremely popular with young people for homework and research and it will be a well used and attractive addition to the centre.
- 2.9 **Showtimers - £1244** sponsored by Mr Tony Elias. This popular local theatre group provides entertainment to audiences from across Tandridge but they do not make a profit. They retain only sufficient funds to put on the next production and donate any excess funds to charity. They also provide

income to Nutfield Village Hall of around £1500 per year. However, the stage curtains are now beyond mending and need to be replaced, which is beyond the means of the Village Hall Management Committee. In 2007 the Local Committee supported the group to install lighting in the village hall. The facilities are used by other groups, such as the new youth theatre group.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 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.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 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.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Local Committee delegated revenue funding for 2009/10 is £49,000 plus £35,000 capital, totalling £84,500. If all the current bids, totalling £36,744 are approved this will leave a balance of £47,256. [Note: A breakdown of capital and revenue costs is indicated in Annex A.]

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 The Local Committee is asked to consider the items submitted for funding from the 2009/10 Local Committee delegated budgets as detailed in the report and to formally approve any in-principle decisions from the last meeting.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 All projects under consideration have been sponsored by, and have the support of, the appropriate Local Member. Members are now requested to consider them as a group and to decide whether or not to approve them.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 If approved by the Local Committee, organisations will be approached to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 In all other circumstances the Local Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible once the signed agreement has been received.
- 10.4 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.

LEAD OFFICER: Lynne Martin, Area Director (East)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009
E-MAIL: lynne.martin@surreycc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER: Janet Johnson, Local Committee and Partnership Officer
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009
E-MAIL: janet.johnson@surreycc.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS: Local Committee Funding Bids