



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2009/10

2 October 2009

KEY ISSUE

To set out the funding available to County Councillors from the delegated budget for 2009/10; to consider requests received and to formally agree the reviewed priorities and protocols for 2009/10.

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. Members are asked to review, agree and record their local priorities annually.

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.

The constitution allows Members to delegate authority to the Area Director to agree applications up to £1000. To exercise this power a formal decision has to be recorded.

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 adopt the local protocol for allocations set out in Annex B
- (iii) delegate authority to the Area Director as set out in para 3 of the report

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 SCC's annual budget meeting in February 2009, this was set at £8,250 revenue per County Councillor, which represents a reduction of 25% on last year plus £35,000 per Local Committee for capital projects. This makes a total of £84,500 for Tandridge Local Committee as a whole.
- 1.3 A summary of all applications for this financial year, already agreed or under consideration, is attached at Annex A.

2 ANNUAL REVIEW

- 2.1 Due to the impact of the recent County Council elections on 4 June 2009 Tandridge Local Committee deferred its annual review of local priorities in relation to allocations to give new Members an opportunity to consider their options, which they subsequently did at an informal meeting of the Committee on 4 September 2009.
- 2.2 As we are now half way through the Council year, it was proposed that the priorities remain unchanged and that Members continue to pool their resources until the next annual review in 2010.
- 2.3 The local protocol governing allocations is attached as Annex B to this report and Members are asked to formally adopt it for 2009/2010.

3 SCHEME OF DELEGATION

- 3.1 In October 2006, the County Council resolved that the scheme of delegation be amended:
 - (1) to give Area Directors authority to approve grants from Members' revenue allocations, in consultation with the appropriate Local Committee Chairman, subject to agreed criteria; and
 - (2) to enable Local Committees to :
 - (i) By resolutions of the Committee, retain the power to approve all grants from Members revenue allocations, in which case the Area Director will have no authority to approve any such grant from an allocation of a Member of that Committee.
 - (ii) Further limit the circumstances in which the Local Director may exercise his or her delegated authority by adding to or strengthening the criteria set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

- 3.2 It also resolved that the following criteria, under which grants from Members' revenue allocations can be delegated to Area Directors, in consultation with the appropriate Local Committee Chairman, be agreed:
- a. The application must have been endorsed by the appropriate local Member
 - b. The application should be for a maximum of £1000.
 - c. Applications from private clubs or other membership organisations must clearly demonstrate the wider community benefit of the project.
 - d. Projects must not contravene any of the Council's agreed policies or priorities.
 - e. The application should be for a future project, not a retrospective request.
 - f. The application should not be to cover ongoing revenue costs.
- 3.3 When this was brought to Committee for discussion in January 2007, Members saw no pressing need to delegate powers to the Area Director and maintained the status quo. However, in informal discussion they expressed a wish to revisit this and to reconsider delegating authority to the Area Director. A formal decision therefore needs to be recorded.

4 FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Due to time constraints, Members took an in-principle agreement outside committee to support the Young Enterprise Scheme to provide advertised courses to pupils at Hurst Green School when one of their sponsors unexpectedly pulled out. The courses were subsequently run on the understanding that the Committee would honour its commitment and release the funding as soon as possible. Members are therefore asked to formally approve this bid for **£1100**.
- 4.2 There are 6 further new bids for consideration as follows:
- 4.2.1 **Homestart in Tandridge - £4500** sponsored by Mr Nicholas Skellett. Homestart already runs a thriving service to families in Reigate & Banstead and has done so for a number of years. They are now keen to extend the service into Tandridge and have requested support from the Local Committee to help with start up costs for a base office in Oxted and a programme of development work. They have already raised funding from other sources and the Committee's contribution would allow the project to proceed in this financial year. The service would be available to families across Tandridge.
- 4.2.2 **Meet Tandridge Business Event – up to £2500** sponsored by Mr Nicholas Skellett. This high profile event will take place at Lingfield Racecourse on 9 October 2009 as a showcase for Tandridge businesses. It was born of the very successful Meet Caterham Business events but will be on a grander scale. The purpose is to promote Tandridge Businesses and there has been an excellent response from the business community,

both in Tandridge and cross-border, but it will also host some statutory services and community stands at no charge. These will include the Police and Trading Standards. While some funding will be generated from hire of stands, in order to break even the publicity and venue hire costs are being sought from sponsors. The event is being part-funded by Tandridge District Council and the Local Committee is being asked to match fund.

- 4.2.3 **Tandridge Village Pre-school - £1165** sponsored by Mr N Skellett. Last year the pre-school fundraised for a new indoor play frame. They were aware that they could not use it without safety mats but had not realised that, for health and safety reasons, they would have to purchase the specially designed mats integral to the system. The equipment cannot be used until the mats are in place so they are asking the Committee to contribute to the outstanding amount required so that the children can start to use their new frame.
- 4.2.4 **Tatsfield Singers - £1200** sponsored by Mr David Hodge. The organisers have requested financial support to help to establish a new local choir in Tatsfield. Once established their future costs will be met from subscription but, in the early stages, they are looking for start up costs towards venue and choirmaster fees. The choir will be a community initiative open to all local residents.
- 4.2.5 **Youth Triathlon - £570** sponsored by Mr John Orrick. Tandridge Leisure has requested Member support to run a sporting event in the autumn which will be open to all local children between 11 and 17 years using their facilities at de Stafford School. This supports the Healthy Living strand of the community strategy as well as engaging local young people in positive activity.
- 4.2.6 **Newchapel Village Hall - £2000** sponsored by Mr Michael Sydney. The Hall is well used by local residents but needs some urgent repair work to be carried out. While the volunteers who manage the building are constantly making improvements to it, the essential repairs to the carpark are beyond their means. They have had some support from the Parish Council and have raised part of the funds for the work themselves but they are short by £2000, which they are asking the Committee to contribute so that work can commence as soon as possible.

5 OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Local Committee may choose to approve all, any or none of the proposals under discussion.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 In relation to new bids, 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 2009/10 is £49,000 plus £35,000 capital, totalling £84,500. If all the current bids, totalling £13,035 are approved, this will leave a balance of £34,721. [Note: A breakdown of capital and revenue costs is indicated in Annex A.]

8 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 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 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 and the locally agreed protocol.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 The Committee is asked to formally approve the revised local protocol.
- 10.4 The Committee is asked to formally endorse its intention to delegate authority to the Area Director for applications up to £1000.

11 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 All projects under consideration have been sponsored by, and have the support of, the appropriate Local Member. Members are requested to consider them as a group and to decide whether or not to approve them.
- 11.2 Approving the local priorities and protocol helps to ensure that decisions on applications are made fairly and consistently, and provides a framework for best practice.
- 11.3 Delegating authority to the Area Director will bring the local committee into line with best practice across the east of Surrey and allow small, but time-constrained, applications to be dealt with efficiently.

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 If the local protocol is approved, officers will continue to support and advise applicants and Members based on the agreed local protocol for allocations.
- 12.6 If delegation to the area director is approved, she will exercise her delegated powers in respect of any applications brought between formal meetings in consultation with the appropriate local member and the committee up to a total of £1000 per application.

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