



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2009/10

5 March 2010

#### 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. 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.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

##### **The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked:**

- (i) to consider new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as set out in Annex A
- (ii) to agree to waive the outstanding sum of £7,000 due to be recovered from TVSC following their move to Oxted Library.

## **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 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

- 2.1 The Tandridge Youth Forum returned £1,000 unspent from a grant paid in 2007/08. £800 has also been returned unspent from a grant to the Family Link project in Hurst Green in 2007/08. Caterham Hill Parish Council has contributed £2,625 to the cost of the Evening Villager pilot and Caterham Valley Parish Council has now contributed £1,000. All of this is reflected in the figures in Annex A as income and represents a boost to the remaining revenue budget of £5,425. The available funding for the final quarter now stands at £14,080 revenue and £8,335 capital, making a total of £22,415.
- 2.2 A further £7,000 was due to be recovered from TVSC in relation to their move to the second floor of Oxted Library. However, the move incurred unexpected building and removal costs, which did not become clear until the work was underway. TVSC attended an informal meeting of the Local Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> January and asked if Members would be prepared to waive the outstanding amount as it was beyond their means to raise at short notice without compromising their staffing budget. Committee agreed to formalise this arrangement at the next public meeting and it is therefore included in the recommendations as item (ii).
- 2.3 Expressions of interest for the final quarter exceeded the available funding and bids received after the deadline have therefore been deferred to the new financial year when the budget position becomes clear.

## **3 NEW BIDS**

- 3.1 Members will have been sent the application forms for the following bids and a brief summary is included here for general information.

### 3.1.1 **Live & Direct £3,700 sponsored by Sally Marks**

Live & Direct is aimed at inspiring young people, who might otherwise use their free time less productively, to actively participate in making music in the modern context. It provides tutoring for 30 young people aged 13 – 19 working over the course of the year on an accredited programme. It includes a digital music project operating out of the new youth facility in Caterham and also encourages and supports public performances which have proven to boost self-esteem. The Committee has previously funded Live & Direct in Godstone. The success of that programme has led to young people raising funds themselves through the Youth Opportunities Fund so that it can continue. It is hoped that the Caterham project will prove equally successful.

### 3.1.2 **St Lawrence Hospital £800 sponsored by John Orrick**

Chaldon Parish Council has approached the Committee for support in restoring the St Lawrence Burial Site, which has been seriously neglected. Their plans include: A wild life audit and tree survey; hedge laying; clearing and replanting the memorial rose garden; refurbishing the entrance gates and producing an information leaflet and CD documenting the history of the site. Most of the work will be carried out by local volunteers as a community project. The development of the site will not only improve the local area but will provide a focal point for walkers and visitors as well as providing a managed wildlife area of interest to local schools. The total cost of the project is estimated at £3,800 and Members are asked for a contribution.

### 3.1.3 **FAHPA £5000 sponsored by Sally Marks**

The Faith and Health Promotion Association was set up by refugee African women in 2006 with the help of TVSC. They work to empower black minorities, especially women and children, to alleviate poverty and promote health awareness and education in marginalized communities. They are currently being supported by the Surrey Life Long Learning Partnership in a new project to improve opportunities for their members and clients through the use of technology and they are asking Members to help with the purchase of equipment and venue hire for ongoing IT literacy training. They are calling this project IT Learning to Integrate because it has two main purposes. The first is to help those with language difficulties to learn in a supported environment how to access the information and services they need to improve their social circumstances and, secondly, by linking to other local groups through SLLP, to share their resources and make positive links in the community, for example, with 'Silver Surfers' or historical research groups. The equipment is intended as a wider community resource.

### 3.1.4 **Crowhurst PC £2,500 sponsored by Michael Sydney**

Bowerlands Corner Memorial Garden has been the subject of an improvement programme which is now nearing completion and Committee is asked to provide funding to build a surround to the west and north sides containing the grassed area. It's main purpose will be to prevent erosion from water but it will enhance the area for the benefit of local residents and visitors, in line with the District's Rural Policy of attracting people into the countryside. The total cost is estimated at £4,700 and the Parish Council will meet the balance.

### 3.1.5 **Oxted Responders £4,000 sponsored by Nick Skellett**

Responders augment the Ambulance Service, particularly in isolated areas. They can often get to incidents ahead of the ambulance in those vital minutes that can mean life and death. However, they are purely voluntary and although training is provided by the parent organisation, they are responsible for funding their own

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equipment. £4,000 would provide two emergency packs and two defibrillators. Although they are currently based in the Oxted area, they have plans to extend their service District-wide in the coming months and will be fundraising extensively to support this additional service. A contribution from Members at this point will allow two ready trained volunteers to begin responding to calls immediately.

**3.1.6 St Stephens School £1,000 sponsored by Tony Elias**

St Stephens School is planning a 50th anniversary event to take place in June 2010 which will involve the whole community and invitations have gone out to former pupils, staff and governors and anyone with an involvement with the school over the past 50 years. Initially the event was advertised through the internet and the school has been overwhelmed by the response as many guests are from the initial cohort in 1959. An anonymous donor has pledged up to £3,000 to cover the cost of a live band and they are asking Committee to contribute towards ancillary costs such as refreshments, toilet facilities, ticketing, leaflets, security, etc. All costings are estimated but should there be any surplus it would be used to mark the occasion by tree planting or a memorial plaque.

**3.1.7 Oxted Band £580.00 sponsored by Nick Skellett**

Oxted Band would like to enter the Southern Counties Amateur Bands Association (SCABA) Contest in Autumn 2010. The band regularly fundraises in the local area for other good causes such as St John's, Marie Curie, NHS and Diabetes UK. However, they are doing this for themselves, to enhance their reputation regionally and nationally and potentially to increase their ability to fundraise for good causes in future. Any contribution would be welcome but the sum asked for would cover entry, coach-hire and rehearsal room on the day.

**3.1.8 Bletchingley in Bloom £500 sponsored by Tony Elias**

Committee has already supported Limpsfield and Tatsfield this year, both of whom continue to do well in the In Bloom series of competitions. Bletchingley is a relative novice having entered for the first time last year. The impact of the competition is noticeable wherever villages participate and entry involves a great deal of community volunteering from schools to local businesses and at relatively low cost. The main benefits are in enhancing the local environment and engendering community ownership of an area so that it continues to improve over time. As a spin-off, the Gardening Club is working with St Catherine's school to teach local children about growing their own produce and flowers.

**3.1.9 Caterham Festival £2,000 sponsored by John Orrick**

The Festival was an outcome of the Caterham Health Check and was run for the first time last year. It was intended to celebrate community and ran over the course of a week and included many events, culminating in a street party. Building on that success, the Festival Committee has approached Members for a contribution towards this year's Street Party so that it can be provided at no cost to attendees. In the current economic climate the organisers are keen that no-one feels excluded on the grounds of affordability and they hope to attract even more local residents than the 4000 who took part last year.

**3.1.10 Transport Vouchers – £2335.**

For a number of years, Committee has agreed that any funds uncommitted at year-end be used to supplement the taxi voucher scheme in Tandridge. Should all the previous bids be approved, that would leave a nominal £2,335 for this purpose. However, the success of the Evening Villager project is largely dependent on uptake by young people using the new centre in Caterham and, although the fares are reasonably priced at 70p each way for young people,

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accumulated over several days, that can become prohibitive for the young people most in need. The Villager scheme is part-provided by Buses4U through the East Surrey Rural Transport Forum, who are also a partner in the Taxi Voucher scheme, and would be instrumental in managing the process. At this time the costs can only be estimated as the facility is not yet fully operational but they are expected to be modest and, if Members are agreeable, any available funding could be shared between the schemes to subsidise fares for disadvantaged young people.

#### **4 OPTIONS**

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

#### **5 CONSULTATIONS**

- 5.1 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.

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

- 6.1 Local Committee delegated revenue funding for 2009/10 is £49,500, plus £35,000 capital, totalling £84,500. Including adjustments for funding detailed in para 2.1 the current balance is £22,415. If all the current bids, totalling £22,415, are approved then the fund will break even. Any funding not spent will be rolled forward into the next financial year. [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 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 2009/10 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. Members are requested to consider them as a group and to decide 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.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Local Committee Funding Bids