



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2010/11

2 July 2010

KEY ISSUE

To set out the funding available to County Councillors from the delegated budget for 2010/11 and to consider requests received and to review the spending priorities and protocol for 2010/11.

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

For 2010/11 the allocation to each County Councillor is £8,250 revenue funding. In addition each Local Committee receives a further £30,000 to spend on capital projects for voluntary sector organisations in the local area, making a total of £79,500 available to the Local Committee (Tandridge).

The constitution further 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 note any payments made under delegated authority, also at Annex A, and
- (iii) to consider the locally agreed priorities and arrangements as set out in Annex B and to amend or approve them for a further 12 months.

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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 their espoused priorities.
- 1.2 At SCC's annual budget meeting in February 2010, the recommendation was to continue to delegate £8,250 revenue per County Councillor, plus £30,000 per Local Committee for capital projects, which is £5000 less than last year. The budgets will be confirmed on 29th June 2010. [As this report will be published in advance of that meeting, any amendments will be tabled.] This makes a total of £79,500 for Tandridge Local Committee as a whole.
- 1.3 Members should note that the £100,000 capital allocation, normally delegated to Highways with the approval of the Local Committee, has been removed from the budget and the following paragraph, which refers, has been deleted from the Local Protocol for Allocations at Annex B.

"6. Local Capital Allocation (Highways)

Further to Members allocations and the additional £35,000 for capital projects, there is a further £100,000 in the Local Committee's gift, which, 'although primarily allocated for transportation purposes, may be used for other functions'. Therefore, the Local Committee must formally agree to continue to use it exclusively for highways purposes."

- 1.4 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 Local Committee fully committed all its funds in the last financial year (2009/10), supporting 32 local projects across the District, and also made a commitment to forward fund the de Fest project as soon as current year funding could be released.
- 2.2 As the funding commitment from the Caterham Hill Parish Council towards the Evening Villager pilot was split across two financial years, there is also an amount of £1,375 outstanding to be added to the revenue budget on receipt.
- 2.3 For the first time, under delegated powers, a payment of £470 was released, to the Lingfield Chamber of Commerce for the purchase of banners promoting the Open Day Business event celebrating the re-opening of Lingfield High Street following an extended period of utility road works. This was brought forward due to time constraints with the full knowledge and majority support of County members who are asked to note it for the record.

3 NEW AND CARRIED FORWARD BIDS

- 3.1 Members will have been sent the application forms for the following seven new bids and a brief summary is included here for general information.
- 3.2 Nutfield Village Hall is still in need of support but, at present, the trustees are not in a position to define what the shortfall is or what funding would specifically be used for, as discussions are still taking place. The Local Partnerships Team has met with their representative to offer support and will do so again later in the year if required. In the meantime, the bid has been withdrawn pending further information.

3.2.1 **Caterham and Warlingham CAB £2,420 sponsored by Sally Marks**

The CAB has acquired an additional room in the Soper Hall that it wants to fit out and equip with desks, chairs, computers, a printer, (to create 3 workstations) and filing cabinets. Work required also includes carpeting over bare floorboards plus computer and telephone cabling. The new room releases an existing office to be used as a desperately needed third interview room. This will greatly assist the bureau in providing a better service for the public by reducing waiting times and making more efficient use of the volunteer advisers that are available. (The bureau currently often has times when there is an adviser ready to see a client but no interview room available for them to use). Setting up 3 workstations in the new office also provides space for volunteers doing admin work. The CAB is pursuing other avenues of funding but so far without success. The work is already going ahead but is putting unsustainable pressure on their reserves. Committee funding will enable them to improve their service to local residents when there is an increasing demand for their services.

3.2.2 **East Surrey Carers Association £1,000 sponsored by John Orrick**

East Surrey Carers Association also covers Reigate and Banstead but they make no geographical distinction between their clients when providing the opportunity for an annual day out. The funding not only pays for the carer's trip but also pays for alternative arrangements for those cared for, which can be prohibitively expensive. In recent years they have successfully applied for funding twice. However, most recently they were advised by their sponsor that the burden of funding should be more equitably split between local committees. Last year they applied to Reigate and Banstead and were granted £1000 so they are applying for the same amount to Tandridge this year. They fundraise extensively for other projects but always express particular gratitude to the Local Committee without whose help it would be increasingly difficult to provide the annual day trip to the coast which is the high point of the carers' year.

3.2.3 **Warlingham School £4000 sponsored by David Hodge??**

Due to the poor condition of their all weather playing surface, the school currently has to cancel/reschedule curriculum lessons, after school clubs, district tournaments but also community use, children and adults alike, having sessions cancelled. They would like to be able to offer courses for the community at half and term holidays. With this in mind they have already fundraised hard towards their target of close to £30,000 and thanks to the recent efforts of final year students who gave a presentation to the Youth Capital Fund, they are now within £4,080 of their target. This final amount would allow work to proceed over the summer and will ensure that the bulk of the funding already raised is not jeopardised by time constraints. The benefits would be not only to the school and

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its students but also to the wider community who could participate in out of hours activities.

3.2.4 Warlingham Parish Council £3,000 sponsored by David Hodge

The Parish Council wishes to provide electrical power to Warlingham Green from a cable already crossing the Green, and to install lighting to the War Memorial and flowerbeds. This will permit a greater range of activities on The Green and will enhance the focal point of the village after dark. The Parish Council is making a financial contribution and has approached the Committee to match fund the project. The benefit would be to the local community who can make fuller use of the space but would also make the area more attractive to visitors thereby boosting the local economy.

3.2.5 Bluehouse Festival £925 sponsored by Nick Skellett

The Festival is a biennial not-for-profit event of visual and performing Arts appealing to and accessible to the whole Community of Tandridge, this year running from 20th October to 3rd November 2010. The Festival provides a diverse range of musical, literary and artistic events and is largely self-funding from ticket sales and donations. The Festival is an attribute to the local area and helps to stimulate local interest in the Arts at all levels. The Committee is asked specifically to pick up the costs of providing two authors to come along and talk to schoolchildren at a series of local events. This will be of particular benefit to Holland School, which is located in an area of significant need.

3.2.6 Felbridge Parish Council £250 sponsored by Michael Sydney

A small quantity of bulbs were planted in Autumn 2009 in Crawley Down Road and the display in the Spring was applauded by many residents. The Parish Council would now like to improve the visual impact of the public amenity areas, including the commonland, for Felbridge residents during early Spring. For a relatively small initial outlay, this will improve the area for many years to come. The planting will be undertaken by local volunteers and arrangements for future upkeep will lie with the Parish Council. The benefits will not only be to the local residents but will hopefully attract visitors to the area.

3.2.7 Bletchingley Youth Club £1000 sponsored by Tony Elias

Contributions are requested to support the provision of a facility for young people in Bletchingley, due to run from the end of June 2010, initially one evening a week in Church House, where activities can be provided in a safe environment. This initiative is supported by the local neighbourhood police officers and will be run by local residents and parents with the backing of the Parish Council. The group is fundraising from various sources but is asking the Local Committee specifically for help with the purchase of equipment identified by the Children (aged 10 to 16) who attended the initial two events and completed questionnaires, and for various activities, such as the attendance of the Demo Pod at some of the sessions, first aid courses and organised trips and events. This will benefit the wider local community as well as the young people by helping to keep them gainfully occupied while offsetting the trend towards antisocial behaviour.

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 All bids are scrutinised to ensure that they comply with the Financial Framework and represent value for money. Local Committee delegated revenue funding for 2010/11 is £49,500, plus £30,000 capital, totalling £79,500. While County Members continue to pool their funds, the Local Partnerships Team will apportion bids to each budget appropriately, offsetting the need to consider the capital funding as a separate item. Including adjustments for funding detailed in paras 2.1 – 2.3, the current balance is £78,405. If all the current bids, totalling £12,675, are approved, the balance will be £65,730. [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