



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2010/11

24 September 2010

KEY ISSUE

To set out the funding available to County Councillors from the delegated budget for 2010/11 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.

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 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 outside of public meetings. These are formally recorded in each subsequent formal report.

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, and
- (ii) to note any payments made under delegated authority, also at 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 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 A summary of all applications for this financial year, already agreed or under consideration is attached at Annex A.

2 NEW BIDS

- 2.1 Members will have been sent the application forms for the following **seven** new bids and a brief summary is included here for general information.
 - 2.1.1 **Caterham History Centre £950 sponsored by John Orrick**
Caterham History Centre provides a valuable voluntary service to the local community, holding as it does extensive records which are freely available to research historians and to the general public. However, these records include a vast range of photographic images and scanned documents and their current database is no longer able to cope efficiently with the volume. As they have no source of income other than small donations, they are not in a position to finance modern replacement equipment and have approached Local Committee for support. They have provided comparative estimates which are all fairly similar and would like to purchase from a local company to support the local economy.
 - 2.1.2 **Whyteleafe Business Association £400 sponsored by Sally Marks**
WBA is a new initiative set up to create a support network for the business community in Whyteleafe. Although it has only been in existence for a few months it has proved hugely popular and is fulfilling a local need. They have already had to increase the size of their first newsletter to accommodate the overwhelming response from interested local businesses and its future plans include making the commercial centre more attractive to local residents and encouraging visitors, for example, by introducing christmas lights.

WBA is currently in the process of setting up a website that can be directly accessed by its members but, as membership is free in the first year and the group is run on a voluntary basis, it needs support to get started. They have contributed £100 towards this and are asking Committee to provide the balance. This application would satisfy the Leader's interest in supporting local businesses, as well as providing a community service aimed at stimulating the local economy.

2.1.3 **Thursday Lunch Club £1000 sponsored by John Orrick**

This small group has been in existence for a number of years and addresses the need for vulnerable and often isolated people with mental health issues to meet socially in a non-threatening environment. It is run by volunteers and its costs are minimal with a turnover of around £2,000 per annum. The main financial consideration is the hire cost of the venue which counts for half of this sum. Although they actively fundraise, donations tend to come in in very small amounts. They appreciate the impact of the current financial climate and they are also aware that Committee does not usually fund the same group in consecutive years. However, without Committee support it is likely that the group would not be viable and they would be grateful for any donation the Committee can make.

2.1.4 **Caterham Evening Villager £4,500 sponsored by John Orrick and Sally Marks**

As background, one of the findings from the Caterham health check was that local people were concerned about the lack of public transport between Caterham Hill and Valley in the evening. There was sufficient interest to pilot a scheme to test the market, operated by Metrobus in partnership with Buses4U. The scheme, which is due to end this month, was funded by the Parish Councils' pledge of £5500, underwritten by the Local Committee, which also picked up the balance. While the Buses4U element has been less successful and will be replaced by a more flexible service to the new Youth facility, Metrobus has provided figures that demonstrate that the early evening route has potential. The Passenger Transport Team would therefore like to include it in the bus review. However, in order to qualify for inclusion, the route would have to be sustained at local cost for a further year, when it would either be integrated or withdrawn. The Parish Councils have already pledged the same amounts as last year and Local Committee is asked to provide the balance and to continue to underwrite as previously. The scheme is dependent on this and both local Members are fully supportive.

3 **BIDS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

3.1 Under the terms of the constitution, bids for less than £1000 can be approved outside of formal meetings under the authority delegated to the Area Director. This is normally invoked where a delayed decision could seriously disadvantage an applicant. There are two to note.

3.1.1 **Chaldon Fete Storage Sheds £500 sponsored by John Orrick**

The sheds used to store the equipment used for the annual fete were in a state of disrepair and needed to be replaced as soon as possible for security reasons. With the annual fete due in August, the management committee sought to have the work done as a matter of urgency.

3.1.2 **Whyteleafe Fun Day £500 sponsored by Sally Marks**

While there are a number of well-established fetes and village fairs across the district, this was the first event of its kind in Whyteleafe, which was aiming to promote and foster a sense of community identity and cohesion among its residents through a fun event. The support of the Local Committee not only funded part of the entertainment but also demonstrated the importance that the County places on local initiatives. The event was reported in the local press as a success and the organisers have subsequently expressed their gratitude to the Local Committee for its timely support.

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. If all the current bids are approved, the balance will be £54,240. [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, which is available from the Local Committee and Partnerships Team.

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; Constitution and Local Protocol

