



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2010/11

14 December 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. This makes a total of £79,500 for Tandridge Local Committee as a whole.
- 1.3 In June 2010 Tandridge Local Committee members agreed to continue to pool their funding and to prioritise applications according to need rather than dividing the available funds on a strictly geographical basis.
- 1.4 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 new bids and a brief summary is included here for general information.
 - 2.1.1 **TVSC Rent Deposit Scheme £3000 sponsored by Nick Skellett**

The rent deposit scheme administered by TVSC is a fund that homeless people can draw on who do not qualify for social housing and are forced to rent in the private sector. In order to rent privately, they have to pay a deposit in addition to the actual rent on the property. For people on benefits or low income, this is more than they can afford at any one time. Those who qualify can borrow from the scheme and repay in instalments over a set period of time. Although the loans are repaid, the revenue available to lend is finite and, given the current financial climate with deposits increasing, TVSC would like to be able to increase the core budget to better support a larger number of people. They will pilot, and closely monitor, the improved offer over the next twelve months to a total of £6,000 estimated to cover costs. They are providing half of this sum from their limited reserves and would welcome the committee's support in match-funding the scheme. The scheme is Tandridge-wide.
 - 2.1.2 **Hurst Green Choir £1000 sponsored by Nick Skellett**

The Choir regularly meets in a local church hall, which is also used by a number of other community groups, including local schools. They would like the Committee's help with purchasing a demountable stage to be erected as required for public performances. The church has agreed that the stage can be stored on the premises but, as they have no use for one, are not interested in installing a permanent facility. It will therefore remain the property of the choir who will maintain it at their own expense and will arrange to lend it to other user groups for the benefit of the wider community.

2.1.3 Godstone at Play £4000 sponsored by Tony Elias

The Local Committee has already donated funding to this project but costs are spiralling faster than the funding is coming in and, although the target has been achieved, the original estimate is now woefully inadequate. In order to address this, the original design has been modified to make it more affordable but the group is still a little short of what is needed and is anxious that, unless the project can begin very soon, it could be lost. They are therefore asking members to consider donating a further £4000 towards the shortfall to secure the successful completion of the scheme.

2.1.4 St Peter and St Pauls Church, Chaldon £3,000 sponsored by John Orrick

This historic building is the subject of a major refurbishment in excess of £120,000. Work has begun and is proceeding at a steady pace, however currently there is no water supply available and the organisers are asking members to donate £3,000 towards the digging of a trench by hand and the installation of the pipe-work. Much of the work is being undertaken by volunteers and the building attracts a large number of visitors, particularly in the summer months. The installation of toilets and refreshment facilities is dependent upon the water supply which will make it more accessible and attractive all year round as a community facility.

2.1.5 TVSC Voluntary Service Fair £1000 sponsored by Nick Skellett

TVSC has made great progress since moving into the Community Hub above Oxted Library, which LC funding made possible, and is keen to promote the work that is going on in the voluntary sector, both to increase its membership and to enlarge its pool of volunteers. It has been invited to co-host a marketplace event with Reigate and Banstead CVS but would need to contribute towards the costs. Members had agreed to fund a local event three years ago which did not materialise because of staffing changes and uncertain future funding. The funding was subsequently returned unused. TVSC have therefore asked whether the local committee would consider making a fresh contribution to what they consider to be a much higher profile event that would offer similar benefits to the wider community.

2.1.6 Tatsfield in Bloom £800 sponsored by David Hodge

Tatsfield continues to excel in the In Bloom competitions and was the first village in the district to compete. With a modest amount of funding and a great deal of voluntary activity, the organisers have not only made Tatsfield an attractive place to live but have also engendered community spirit and encouraged other villages to participate. The support of the local committee has not only helped in a practical way but has also endorsed the enterprise and helped to encourage local people to take a pride in their environment to the benefit of residents and visitors to the area.

2.1.7 The Soper Hall £5000 sponsored by Sally Marks

The Soper Hall is a well-known landmark in Caterham Valley which is owned by the District Council and houses the CAB and some small businesses. It is funded from rental of its large halls but, in recent years, has become increasingly difficult to maintain. It requires a great deal of refurbishment, particularly in the basement which houses a large unused kitchen. Following the recent health check which resulted in the formation of the Caterham Community Partnership, work in

improving the Town Centre, funded by SEEDA and both local authorities is already well advanced. The group is now seeking transfer of ownership of the Soper Hall so that the building can be developed and made attractive and profitable for the benefit of local residents. Some initial funding is required to support this process and local committee is being asked to contribute £5000.

2.1.8 **Ridge Radio £4000 sponsored by Sally Marks**

Another spin-off from the Caterham Health Check is the amount of volunteer activity that has been generated, capturing local enthusiasm and energy. The most recent initiative is a proposal to start up a local radio station. This will not just cover Caterham but will broadcast across Tandridge focussing on local priorities. The roughly estimated cost of setting up such an enterprise is around £30,000 but many of the resources have been donated and more is promised. All the work is being done by volunteers generously donating their time. The organisers are asking the Local Committee to endorse the project by contributing towards the start up costs.

2.1.9 **Nutfield Memorial Hall up to £4800 sponsored by Tony Elias**

When Nutfield Memorial Hall was completely destroyed by fire, the insurance cover was not adequate to rebuild it and, although a shell could be erected, further funding was required to fit it out for community use. A submission has recently been made to BIFFA for funding and the trustees have approached the Local Committee for leverage funding of approximately £4,800 in support of their application. Such support would also be instrumental in demonstrating local authority support for the project.

NOTE: Tandridge District Council has also been approached in order to bolster the application but, as it has limited funding left in its small grants fund this year, the suggested split is £4,500 from TLC and the remainder, £315.57, from TDC. While this has yet to be formally agreed by TDC, the indications are promising.

2.1.10 **Warlingham Parish Council £2,500 sponsored by David Hodge**

The County Council has reviewed its winter maintenance programme in the light of the severe weather experienced last year. As part of this, it has offered to supply additional salt bins to be maintained over 10 years. The cost of each bin will be £2,500, which will cover the initial purchase and installation and sufficient salt to fill it once per year until the end of the contract. This will allow the parish councils to decide on location and to monitor use. All requests for new bins must be notified to the County Council by the end of November 2010. Warlingham PC would like to install two new bins, one of which it will pay for from its own funds, and it is asking the Local Committee to contribute to the cost of a second one.

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 is only one to note, although at the time of printing the decision had not yet been made. If successful, it will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

- 3.1.1 **Lingfield Chamber of Commerce £250 sponsored by Michael Sydney**
The Local Committee donated funding earlier this year towards the purchase of a banner to promote the relaunch of Lingfield's commercial centre following prolonged disruption due to amenity roadworks in the High Street. While that afforded some success, for which the Chamber is grateful, they are still working hard on other initiatives to stimulate the local economy. A modest contribution from the local committee will allow them to upgrade the Christmas lights. This bid is time-critical as the new lighting will have to be installed in early December and members have been canvassed for their views so that, if successful, funding can be released under delegated authority in good time.

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 £22,765. [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 2010/11 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