



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2010/11

4 March 2011

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, and
- (ii) to note any payments made under delegated authority since the last formal meeting on 14th December 2010

[Note: A summary of all applications for this financial year, already agreed or under consideration, is attached 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 **South Godstone Sports & Community Association £950 sponsored by Tony Elias**

As part of an on-going refurbishment programme, the association is currently fundraising to upgrade the men's changing rooms and toilets to bring them in line with the recently upgraded ladies' facilities. They lease the building from the District Council but are responsible for maintenance of the facilities they use. They are working to a tight timescale as works have to be carried out during the sports off-season. They estimate that, if Local Committee were to award 50% of their target figure, this would enable them to complete the works in May/June of this year. The community benefit would be primarily to the S Godstone area.

2.1.2 **Chelsham and Farleigh Parish Council £2000 sponsored by David Hodge**

As with other parish councils in the more rural parts of the County, Chelsham and Farleigh would like to support the work of the County Council's Highways winter maintenance team in clearing local roads during extreme weather. They have discussed and approved the purchase of a grit spreader and are now looking at ways of funding this. They have estimated the total cost at just over £4,000 and are prepared to pay for half of this from their small precept but would welcome the support of the Local Committee in making up the shortfall. The community benefit would be to Chelsham, Farleigh and parts of Warlingham.

2.1.3 **Caterham Festival 'De Fest' event £2500 sponsored by Sally Marks**

Following the success of the De Fest music event for young people in Caterham to coincide with the festival last year, the organisers would like to purchase equipment that could be more widely used for this and other local events. They

are specifically asking for funding towards equipment such as a PA / Sound system, lighting and recording hardware and have requested £2,500 towards this as a capital investment for the future. The community benefit would be to all ages and would cover all of Caterham and the surrounding area.

2.1.4 ES Carers Support Association £1500 sponsored by John Orrick

Local Committee has supported this organisation over a number of years and they usually alternate between Tandridge and Reigate & Banstead when applying for Member funding, as their membership derives from both areas. This annual trip offers a unique opportunity for carers to relax and socialise in a setting where they are free of their caring responsibilities for a day. The funding will not only pay for the costs of the trip itself but for alternative care arrangements to allow carers to participate.

2.1.5 Outwood Youth Club £2000 sponsored by Nick Skellett

The young people of Outwood Youth Club have managed a taxi voucher scheme to address the shortcomings in public transport for young people who are not yet of an age where they can drive or afford a vehicle of their own. However, it has become apparent that the taxi voucher scheme was expensive and unsustainable. As an alternative, they are now working on a proposal that could utilise a Buses 4U vehicle in downtime to provide a bespoke service. The intention is to run a pilot scheme for 12 months from April 2011 and, if successful, to embed it as a local resource. The set up costs for the project have not been worked out in detail but, with Member support, it is envisaged that a co-ordinator could be employed to work with the young people to get the scheme up and running for a relatively modest amount. Committee is therefore asked to provide £2000 towards set up costs.

2.1.6 Dormansland Carnival Association £950 sponsored by Michael Sydney

Following a difficult year for local businesses, sponsorship for the event has been compromised and the Association would welcome support from the local committee to ensure that the event can proceed this year with the purpose of providing a much valued community day out while fundraising for local charities. The carnival committee estimates that the day costs a little over £4000 to set up and run and they have provided a list of items Members might choose to sponsor, including the hire of public address equipment and the cost of a brass band to lead the procession as well as a jazz band to provide entertainment throughout the day, totalling £950.

2.1.7 Disability Challengers £3500 sponsored by Nick Skellett

Challengers organises play/youth schemes in Caterham and Oxted which provide a safe environment where disabled children and young people can participate in fun activities while giving their carers a much needed respite. Although parents contribute to the scheme, this is heavily subsidised to make it affordable and Challengers is dependent upon fundraising and charitable donations to provide a quality service. Although the scheme is also open to families outside of Tandridge, a significant proportion are local, over the two venues just short of 100 local children and young people participate each year.

2.1.8 East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership £560 sponsored by Nick Skellett

In order to make the Buses 4U vehicles accessible to more isolated or vulnerable people, ES RTP would like to install clamps that will allow passengers to travel safely without getting out of their wheelchairs. This amount will purchase and install 4 sets of clamps.

2.1.9 **Taxi Vouchers sponsored by Nick Skellett**

The Committee has, over a number of years, allocated whatever revenue funding is left at year-end to support the local taxi voucher scheme which would allow those residents whose applications would form part of a waiting list, to gain access to this very popular and over-subscribed scheme.

[NOTE: At the closing date for Members' Allocations for 2010/11, this stood at roughly £7,000. However, the following late request from the Caterham Festival Committee is time-critical as the event will take place before the next Local Committee meeting and Members are therefore asked to take this into consideration before making a final decision.]

2.1.10 **Caterham Festival up to £3,500 sponsored by Sally Marks**

The Caterham Street Party is getting bigger each year with around 5,000 people participating. This has raised concerns over community safety and the organisers would like to purchase some public address equipment to attach to lamp posts so that announcements in the event of missing children or other emergencies can be clearly communicated. There is also no provision as yet for wet weather cover for sound equipment for entertainers and bands. Members are asked to contribute £3500 towards this. The community benefit would be primarily to residents of Caterham and north Tandridge.

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 three to note:

3.1.1 South Godstone Sports and Community Association were granted funds to purchase, install and fill a grit bin on their grounds so that the facilities would remain accessible in extreme weather.

3.1.2 A further £500 was approved to permit the Tatsfield in Bloom Association's volunteers to undertake some additional work around the new Tatsfield School in time for its official opening in April 2011. The bulk of the funds will be spent on spring flowering plants.

3.1.3 Having established that the Local Committee could source grit bins at more competitive rates from a local supplier, Members have elected not to take advantage of the County Council scheme but to ringfence £600 per division, which will buy 4 grit bins for each, provided that the local parish councils will maintain/fill them from their precept. This will allow some flexibility in severe weather to help to keep roads and pathways clear at critical points. These are in addition to yellow bins supplied by the County Council and will be clearly labelled, in different colours and with the option of locking. [NOTE: While the grand total exceeds the £1000 limit for decisions taken under delegated authority, each division is within the limit and this is in line with the County's approach to severe weather provision.] Members should advise the Local Partnership Team of their local requirements to enable funding to be released.

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 Committee will have spent its entire allocation for the 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, 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 or, for District-wide bids, the chairman. 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.
- 11.5 A breakdown of expenditure for the year will be brought to the next local committee meeting on 24th June 2011.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Local Committee Funding Bids; Constitution and Local Protocol