



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2010/11

24 June 2011

KEY ISSUE

To set out the funding available to County Councillors from the delegated budget for 2011/12 and to consider requests for funding received from local organisations and community groups.

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 2011/12 the allocation to each County Councillor is £8,410 revenue funding. In addition each Local Committee receives a further £35,000 to spend on capital projects in the local area, making a total of £85,460 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,
- (ii) to note any payments made under delegated authority, and
- (iii) to postpone the annual review of its local protocol until the next formal meeting in September.

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 delegate £8,410 revenue per County Councillor, plus £35,000 per Local Committee for capital projects, which is overall slightly more than last year. This makes a total of £85,460 for Tandridge Local Committee as a whole.
- 1.3 Any adjustments due to projects carried over or funds due to be returned from the previous year, are listed at Annex A.
- 1.4 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. This situation is reviewed on an annual basis and would normally inform discussion at this meeting.
- 1.5 However, following restructure within the County Council, the Area Director posts have been deleted and, in order to enable delegated decisions to continue, a request is about to be made to Cabinet in respect of both the amount and the personnel to whom authority will now be delegated. Until such time as the Constitution can be legally amended, it is recommended that we retain the current arrangements, with authority remaining with James Painter, the Community Partnerships Manager and previous Area Director (North).
- 1.6 As a result of various other internal changes to process and accountability, it is recommended that the local protocol and priorities are therefore reviewed at the next formal round of local committees, in this case on 30 September, by which time new personnel and procedures should be in place and communicated fully to Members. In the meantime, existing staff will aim to provide a consistent service throughout the period of transition with the minimum of disruption.
- 1.7 A breakdown of expenditure for 2010/11 will be included in the next formal report, however, 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 copies of the application forms for the following new bids and a brief summary is included here for general information.

2.1.1 Ridge Radio £850 sponsored by John Orrick???

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As a result of a great deal of community work being carried out in Caterham following on from the highly influential health check, Ridge Radio, which received funding from Committee last year, is now asking for support to purchase a badge maker for community use. It will be held in the offices used by Ridge Radio and will be made available to other local organisations on request.

2.1.2 Youth Development Service £3,500 sponsored by Nick Skellett

The Youth Development Service has applied for grants for a variety of projects over the years, including contributions to the very successful I-Bus; support for the Live & Direct music festival running out of the Orpheus Centre, which provides equipment, coaching and rehearsal space for aspiring young musicians who would not normally be able to access facilities. They now want to put together an imaginative programme for working with local voluntary groups and young people to enable them to set up clubs across Tandridge to take forward youth work at a time when the service is undergoing significant change. The scheme will benefit young people and communities across the District.

2.1.3 Felbridge Parish Council c£1000 sponsored by Michael Sydney

The Local Committee has not contributed to Vehicle Activated Signs for some time as there is an argument that proliferation of signs devalues their impact. However there is already a temporary Police mobile unit at this site which is due to be, or may have been, redeployed and the parish council has offered to part fund the purchase of permanent signs on the grounds of safety. Due to budget pressures, Highways is unable to absorb the costs of purchase and installation but has agreed to undertake the ordering and overview of the works if Committee will contribute towards the costs.

2.1.4 Chaldon Parish Council £2000 sponsored by John Orrick

Chaldon Parish Council is keen to purchase a grit spreader attachment, which can be used by local farmers when clearing the rural roads in extreme weather such as we had last winter. Because the farmer is based in Tandridge and will operate predominantly within its borders, funding is requested from Tandridge Local Committee but the Parish Council and two R&B Committee Members from neighbouring divisions have also agreed to contribute funding in order to keep the cross border routes open. This is a truly collaborative effort to address local need which will benefit local residents using those roads in winter for some years to come.

2.1.5 Bletchingley Skate Ramp £5000 sponsored by Tony Elias

The skate ramp in Bletchingley is well used and, as a result, is now in a poor state of repair. A number of skate ramps were installed by the District Council some years ago as part of a national scheme and Local Committee contributed to some of these at the time. Bletchingley Parish Council is extremely active in improving facilities for its young people and Local Committee recently donated significant funds towards a new play area. The plans for the skate ramp are costed at £35,000 but are essential on the grounds of safety and a contribution from Local Committee would help to move them forward.

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:

- 3.2 £850 was awarded to Outwood Cricket Club, which is a community focus for the village, so that they could pay for essential maintenance to their grass cutting equipment in time for the summer season. The facilities are in great demand in the summer months and this will improve ground maintenance significantly. They have asked that their grateful thanks be passed on to Local Committee Members.
- 3.3 £950 was awarded to the Tandridge Schools Confederation to help to support their popular Baby Café which is a project aimed at young single mothers who might otherwise become isolated in the community. It offers a meeting place with access to support and advice from professionals for a vulnerable group of young women and their babies.
- 3.4 £800 was awarded to Oxted Rotary who have just taken on responsibility for the annual Pram Race. Their first priority was to replace bibs and signage to address health and safety issues. As all profits from the event are disbursed to charities, there was no existing contingency fund and no new income expected until after the race. The donation from the Local Committee enabled them to place orders in good time for the June event.

4 FURTHER UPDATES

4.1 Grit Bins – Capital allowance

£600 was allocated to each division in March for the purchase of additional grit bins.

- Godstone division elected to split the funding between its 3 parish councils to purchase salt and the funding has now been disbursed.
- Caterham Hill division has indicated an interest in spending its funding in the same way and, once confirmation has been received, the paperwork will be raised and issued.
- Lingfield division, which has 7 parishes, had already acquired additional grit bins and the Local Member has elected to return the capital to the budget to be put to other local community uses.
- Oxted division has identified some locations and is now waiting for the outcome of the Winter Service review to find out whether existing bins can be re-sited at those places before committing further funding.
- Caterham Valley and Warlingham divisions have yet to confirm preferences.

As salt is a revenue item, rather than capital, this will mean adjusting the budget. These adjustments will be reflected in the annex to the Committee report as they are processed.

- 4.2 We have had an informal approach from Surrey Police requesting a contribution towards erecting a pole to support a CCTV camera in Hurst Green where there has been a recent escalation in anti-social behaviour. With Member agreement, the cost may be split between the Parish Council, the Community Safety Partnership and the Local Committee, keeping the contributions down to £520 each. This being the case, it should be possible to circulate the application for a decision under delegated authority unless

Members would care to take an in-principle decision at this meeting pending receipt of a completed application form.

- 4.3 The closing date for applications to be decided at the September committee meeting is Tuesday 30th August 2011.

5 OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Local Committee may choose to approve all, any or none of the proposals under discussion.
- 5.2 While it makes some practical sense to defer any discussions on priorities and protocols as at recommendation (iii), Members may, if they so wish, discuss and decide on whether to continue to pool funding and/or change their local priorities at this meeting. Any decisions will be duly recorded and immediately effective. They may also request that the analysed breakdown of expenditure from last year be circulated immediately following the meeting.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 In relation to new bids, consultation, where appropriate, may have been undertaken by the organisation receiving funding, the local Member or the Community Partnerships Team as required, depending on the nature of the project, and further details are available on request.

7 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 All bids are scrutinised to ensure that they comply with the Financial Framework and represent value for money. Local Committee delegated revenue funding for 2011/12 is £50,460, plus £35,000 capital, totalling £85,450. Until September, should County Members continue to pool their funds, the Community 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 overall budget will reduce by xxxxx leaving xxxxxx. [Note: A breakdown of capital and revenue costs is indicated in Annex A.]

8 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 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.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Local Committee funding may be allocated to projects that benefit a diverse range of community safety needs.

10 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 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 Community Partnerships Team.
- 10.2 The Local Committee is asked to consider the items submitted for funding from the 2011/12 Local Committee delegated budgets as detailed in the report.

11 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 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 each of them as a group and to decide whether or not to approve them.

12 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 12.1 If approved by the Local Committee, organisations will be approached to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.
- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 In all other circumstances the Community Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible once a signed agreement has been received.
- 12.4 As far as possible, within three months of completion, all successful applicants will be contacted for details of how the funding was spent and will be asked to supply evidence.
- 12.5 A breakdown of expenditure for the year will be brought to the next local committee meeting on 30th September 2011.

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