



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2010/11

30 September 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 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 approve the amended local protocol attached as Annex B

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. (See Annex B)
- 1.5 A summary of all applications for this financial year, already agreed or under consideration, is attached as Annex A and a breakdown of expenditure for 2010/11 is appended as Annex C.

2 OUTSTANDING BIDS

- 2.1 At the last meeting of the Local Committee on 24th June 2011 two applications were deferred. A bid from Felbridge Parish Council for a Vehicle Activated Sign was agreed in principle pending receipt of a revised bid generated by local residents. That application has now been received and processed; the cost of the VAS split between the parish council, the Committee and local residents. The work has been ordered and will proceed shortly.
- 2.2 Committee also deferred a bid from Chaldon Parish Council for the purchase of a grit spreader, part-funded by Reigate & Banstead Local Committee. Decision was deferred pending the publication of the Winter Maintenance Report due to go to Cabinet in September. Members agreed to revisit the application and to take a decision at this meeting.

3 NEW BIDS

- 3.1 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.
 - 3.1.1 **Oxted Chamber of Commerce c£3,565 sponsored by Nick Skellett**

Oxted CoC has undertaken to upgrade the Christmas Lights in Oxted which are currently in need of repair and replacement and they have costed the project at £7,200 before tax. Without support, it could take several years to complete the project and, while their fundraising efforts continue, the project would receive an immense boost if Committee could meet half the cost to get it underway. However, any contribution towards the total would be welcome. The main benefit to the wider community, apart from the improved aesthetic appeal, would be to stimulate seasonal trade.

3.1.2 Age to Age Walk £200 sponsored by Michael Sydney

This popular local walking route is promoted through leaflets and waymarkers created and circulated by Age to Age. The promotional leaflets were last printed in 1995 and are now becoming scarce and in need of updating to reflect recent changes. They have raised the bulk of the £1400 required for a refresh and are asking Committee to contribute the outstanding £200 that would allow printing to be ordered. The benefits are not only to the health of the local community through encouraging outdoor exercise but, as the walk also attracts visitors from further afield, helps to stimulate the local economy.

3.1.3 Felbridge Horticultural Society £250 sponsored by Michael Sydney

In 2010, the parish council led an appeal to improve the local environment by planting spring flowers. The Local Committee contributed £250 towards the project for the purchase of seasonal bulbs. The project has proved hugely popular and successful and this year the Horticultural Society would like to expand the project and are requesting a further £250 from local committee to support their efforts. The planting is carried out as a wider community project by volunteers from the FHS, local residents and the parish council, which also contributes financially.

3.1.4 Chaldon Cricket Club £3,600 sponsored by John Orrick

The Cricket Club in Chaldon is undertaking a major overhaul of its facilities which it has costed at £7,200 and is requesting half of that amount from the Local Committee. The Club is an established feature within the local community and positively promotes the village through healthy competition. It also encourages young people to become involved through training and junior competitions. However, their reserves are limited and they would welcome any support that Committee is able to offer to upgrade and improve their facilities.

3.1.5 SUSY Radio £4,200 sponsored by Nick Skellett

SUSY Radio is a non-profit organisation run on a voluntary basis, which has been active in Reigate and Banstead for 17 years and recently bid successfully against strong competition for the SE community radio licence covering R&B and much of Tandridge. In order to be able to broadcast across the area, there are some set-up costs still to be met and they are applying to both Tandridge and R&B Local Committees for support. The benefit to both communities is that, as a condition of their agreement, they must provide ancillary services to the community and are already working with young people in Merstham, training them in the necessary media skills to a level where some of them have found permanent employment in the industry. If successful, they can offer similar opportunities to young people in Tandridge. While the amount requested will enable them to start broadcasting in December/January, their fundraising is on-going as they have a number of other projects in progress and they have a policy of continuous improvement to their equipment so any funding that Committee can contribute will be well used.

3.1.6 Lingfield Hub - £800 sponsored by Michael Sydney

www.surreycc.gov.uk/tandridge

Surrey County Council has entered into negotiations with the parish councils in Lingfield in order to pilot a scheme that will allow the parish councils to adopt responsibility for the management of the lengthmen's work, eg grass-cutting, in the local area. This is highly innovative and has involved all seven parishes working together with the local Member and county officers to reach agreement so that the works can begin. While Lingfield Parish Council has agreed to take on a pivotal role, it is incurring initial management costs which, as it is to the benefit of the division as a whole, might be more appropriately met by the County Council. Any support would be welcome until the official arrangements are in place and the project becomes self-sustaining. If successful, this pilot could be the first of many similar projects across the County and it is in the best interests of localism for the pilot to succeed.

3.1.7 **Tatsfield Horticultural Society c £10,000 sponsored by David Hodge**

Tatsfield HS has just secured the lease of a large plot of previously untended land in the village with the intention of developing community allotments. They have a modest annual turnover and are currently fundraising for a number of projects that will take the scheme forward. They already have a community composting project up and running and plots have been assigned and the intention is to develop communal areas where residents can learn about cultivation. They aim to be sustainable and self-sufficient and have plans for developments on the site that will include a rainwater-recovery system. This will necessitate the building of a pitched roof, the installation of specialist equipment and storage tanks. These elements have been costed separately but the roof is the most pressing. Contributions to one or more of these elements would be very welcome. The village has a strong horticultural tradition, doing extremely well in the annual Britain In Bloom competitions and the project has the full support of the local community.

4 **BIDS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

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

4.2 £521 was awarded to the Police in order to install a CCTV mast in Hurst Green to address anti social behaviour issues in a specific hot spot. The pole was part funded by the parish council, the Community Safety Partnership and the Local Committee. The mast is now in place and the CCTV unit, paid for by the Police, has been purchased and is due to be installed shortly.

5 **FURTHER UPDATES**

5.1 **Grit Bins – Capital allowance**

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

- Caterham Hill division had indicated an interest in spending its funding on salt but, to date, no confirmation has been received.
- Oxted division has identified one location, currently in process.
- Caterham Valley and Warlingham divisions have yet to confirm preferences.

- 5.2 Members are requested to note that future application forms can be obtained by e-mailing *Community Partnerships East* or phoning 01737 737420. Completed forms should be returned directly to that e-mail address. Hard copy applications should be posted to, the Community Partnerships Team (East), Surrey County Council's East Area Office, Lesbourne Road, Reigate RH2 7JA and marked for the attention of the Community Partnerships Team East.
- 5.3 The report to the next formal meeting will be prepared and presented by the Community Partnerships East Team Leader, Sandra Brown.
- 5.4 The recommended closing date for applications to be decided at the next committee meeting on 9th December is Tuesday 25th October 2011 unless otherwise advised.

6 OPTIONS

- 6.1 The Local Committee may choose to approve all, any or none of the proposals under discussion.
- 6.2 Following a discussion in an informal meeting of the Local Committee on 2nd September, Members made suggestions for amendments to the local protocol to bring it up to date following the staffing restructure, agreeing to continue to pool funding and adding a further priority – healthy lifestyles. The amended version is attached as Annex C and Members may discard, approve, or further amend it. Implementation of any decision taken will have immediate effect.

7 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 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.

8 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 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. A further £3000 is due to be recovered from underwriting a project in Caterham in 2010/11 and £600 has been returned for reallocation from Lingfield Division's grit bin allowance. Of this total, £13,471 has been already disbursed leaving a grand total of £75,589.
- 8.2 If all the current bids are approved in full, the overall budget will reduce by £24,575 leaving a balance of £51,014. [Note: A breakdown of capital and revenue costs is indicated in Annex A.]

9 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 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.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

11 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 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.

12 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 All projects under consideration have been sponsored by, and have the support of, the appropriate Local Member or, for District-wide bids, the chairman. County members are requested to consider each of them on their individual merits and to decide, as a group, whether or not to approve them.

13 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 13.1 If approved by the Local Committee, applicants will be required to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.
- 13.2 Any amendments to an approved bid will be discussed with the local Member and the Chairman and, if the changes are considered to be significant, a revised bid will be brought back to Committee for approval.
- 13.3 In all other circumstances the Community Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible once a signed agreement has been received.

- 13.4 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.
- 13.5 A breakdown of expenditure for the year will be brought to the local committee annually for information.

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