



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' ALLOCATIONS FOR 2011/12

09 December 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 County Council's Constitution further allows Members to delegate authority to agree applications up to a maximum of £1,000 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.

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, resulting in a total of £85,460 for the 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 A summary of all applications for this financial year that have already been agreed or are under consideration is attached as Annex A.

2 NEW BIDS

- 2.1 Members will have been sent copies of the application forms for the following new bids. A brief summary is included here for general information.

2.2 **Caterham Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) £4,320 sponsored by Sally Marks**

Caterham & Warlingham Citizens Advice Bureau currently has limited computer networking capability. The purchase of two new servers through this funding will give the organisation greater flexibility in how it uses its information technology (IT). The anticipated benefits include more flexible access to all the Bureau's e-mail accounts, with remote access for Managers / Supervisors in the event of bad weather disruption; better IT security and data back-up facilities; easier management of non-client electronic files; and the ability to use the Bureau photocopier as a networked document scanner. The anticipated improvement in the efficiency of its IT will help the Bureau respond more effectively to its increasing workload. The total cost of the project is £4,320 all of which is being sought from the local committee.

2.3 **Oxted Band £4,500 sponsored by Nick Skellett**

Funding is being sought for the refurbishment of the Oxted Band hut. The hut or 'Band Room' was originally built during the Second World War and is a single storey structure that is timber-framed and clad with timber boarding on both the internal and external walls. The hut has a pitched metal profile sheeted roof that helps the building to overheat in the summer. However, the hut is draughty during winter and both difficult and expensive to heat. The proposed refurbishment will provide a comprehensive internal upgrade of the building's thermal envelope that will surpass current Building Regulation requirements. There will be a new mechanical ventilation system, electrical

re-wiring where necessary, improved air tightness as well as additional storage space. Reductions in utility bills and carbon emissions and overheating are envisaged. The total cost of the project is £6,000. A Surrey County Council Community Services Committee grant of £1,500 was secured in September 2011 towards the project's cost.

2.4 Lingfield Nature Reserve £3,610 sponsored by Michael Sydney

This project aims to improve access to the Lingfield Nature Reserve for people both from disadvantaged groups and those seeking to use it for educational purposes. The Reserve would undertake work to upgrade a hard-standing path and to develop a new extension to a path. Currently, owing to the water table in the area being high, it is necessary to traverse deep mud to access the area in autumn, winter and spring. The existing path is very worn and is too uneven for buggies, wheelchairs and for those with ambulatory difficulties to use. The path and the hard-standing will also help to improve educational access to several areas of the nature Reserve and to the amenity field where the organisation hopes to undertake activities for children from 2012 onwards.

3 BIDS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

3.1 Under the terms of the constitution, bids up to a maximum of £1,000 can be approved outside of formal meetings under delegated authority. This has usually been invoked where a delayed decision might seriously disadvantage an applicant. There are two to note:

3.2 Home Start East Surrey £100 sponsored by Sally Marks

Funding to purchase four banners was sought in order to help raise awareness of the charity and, in particular, to help to promote its need for volunteers in the east of Surrey (Tandridge, Redhill, Reigate and Horley). The funding granted by the Committee met half of the total cost of the project with the remaining funding being secured from Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Reigate and Banstead.

3.3 Lingfield Chamber of Commerce £500 sponsored by Michael Sydney

Funding for the provision of Christmas lights in the centre of Lingfield was sought to celebrate the festive period. The lights would help to attract customers to the area and thus be of benefit to local businesses as well as the local community. A replacement for the original 25 year-old lighting system was necessary in order to address safety and reliability issues.

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 Community 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 2011/12 is £50,460, plus £35,000 capital.
- 6.2 If all the new bids detailed in this report are approved in full, when combined with the bids already approved under delegated authority, the overall budget will reduce by £13,030, leaving a balance of £43,564. 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 Community Partnerships Team.
- 9.2 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.

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. 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.

11 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

11.1 If approved by the Local Committee, applicants will be required to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.

11.2 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.

11.3 In all other circumstances the Community Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible once a signed agreement has been received.

11.4 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.

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

11.6 The closing date for applications to be decided at the next committee meeting on 2nd March 2012 is Monday 6th February 2012, unless otherwise advised.

LEAD OFFICER:	Sandra Brown, Community Partnerships Team Leader (East Surrey)
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	03456 009 009
E-MAIL:	sandra.brown@surreycc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER:	Sandra Brown, Community Partnerships Team Leader (East Surrey)
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	03456 009 009
E-MAIL:	sandra.brown@surreycc.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Local Committee Funding Bids; Constitution and Local Protocol

