



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(WAVERLEY)**

**COUNTY COUNCIL FUND FOR SMALL DISADVANTAGED
AREAS**

18 JUNE 2010

KEY ISSUE

To agree a process for promoting the availability of the fund within Waverley and for deciding which applications to submit for consideration by the panel.

SUMMARY

At the meeting of the County Council on 23 March 2010, reflecting a wish to serve all Surrey residents, the Leader announced that £200k in 2010/11, from the policy initiatives budget, would be made available to help disadvantaged areas. Local committees were invited to bid for the funds and preference would be given to those committees that had made most progress on the localism and Total Place agenda.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to agree:

- (i) To promote the availability of the fund amongst relevant organisations and partnerships in Waverley.
- (ii) To establish a Task Group of members to assess applications received and make recommendations to the Committee for formal decision.
- (iii) To receive a report at its next meeting (17 September 2010) containing recommendations on which project(s) to submit to the panel as its application(s) for possible funding.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the meeting of the County Council on 23 March 2010 the Leader announced that £200k would be made available in 2010/11, from the policy initiatives budget, to help disadvantaged areas in Surrey.
- 1.2 The purpose of the fund is to develop initiatives which reduce inequalities and empower small to medium-sized communities in Surrey which experience relative disadvantage to work with the County Council and other relevant partners to develop local solutions to the problems facing them.
- 1.3 The Leader feels that it is important that the Council tries to help some of the more disadvantaged areas to help themselves to develop economically, socially and in a way that is sustainable.
- 1.4 It is intended that Local Committees will play a pivotal role in promoting, developing and submitting applications and in monitoring the outcomes. They may wish to work on their applications through private and formal meetings during the summer, making their decision on what applications they would wish to recommend for funding during the autumn cycle of formal meetings.

2 DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The full guidance notes relating to the fund is annexed to this report (**Annex 1**) along with the application form (**Annex 2**).
- 2.2 The Local Committee (Waverley) has developed an understanding of the profile of disadvantage in Waverley and has a long tradition of supporting innovative projects in those neighbourhoods most affected (see, most recently, the report considered at the meeting on 4 December 2009).
- 2.3 The availability of the fund presents the Committee with a significant opportunity to work with partners to address some of the outstanding challenges presenting communities of place and interest within the borough. The Committee is encouraged to promote the fund and develop a number of innovative applications for submission to the countywide funding panel.

3. OPTIONS

- 3.1 It is suggested that the Committee should establish a small Task Group of members to assess any applications for funding received from organisations and partnerships within Waverley against the criteria set out in the guidance (**Annex 1**). The Task Group will need to have met in time to recommend suitable projects for formal decision by the Local Committee at its next meeting on 17 September 2010.

4. CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Applications submitted will be expected to demonstrate evidence of consultation with stakeholders and to include ongoing engagement with relevant communities as part of their project plan.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

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- 5.1 Detailed financial implications are set out in the guidance note (**Annex 1**), but attention is drawn in particular to the fact that each Local Committee may submit applications without restriction as to value, except that they should not exceed £200,000 and all funding must be spent by March 2012 and each recipient will supply a report outlining the outcomes achieved to date by June 2012.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A recognition of the diversity of Surrey and a wish to promote inclusion and equality of opportunity are central to the purpose of the fund.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Projects may involve the promotion of community safety by strengthening communities, developing a preventative approach and addressing the specific risks faced by certain vulnerable communities.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The announcement of the fund represents an opportunity for the Local Committee to develop its role in promoting improved outcomes for the most disadvantaged residents and communities in Waverley. The process set out in 3.1 would enable the Committee to develop some robust applications for consideration by the countywide funding panel.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 The Local Partnerships Team will make the necessary arrangements to take forward the decisions made by the Committee.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Minutes of Surrey County Council meeting: 23 March 2010 (Item 5)