



Self-reliance in Woking Local Committee for Woking 15 October 2002

KEY ISSUE

This is the response to the County Council's Corporate Plan for 2002/03 which asks Local Committees to identify any local areas of disadvantage and develop action plans to address them.

SUMMARY

Surrey County Council's self-reliance policy proposes an area-based approach to tackling deprivation by focusing on neighbourhoods that are multiply disadvantaged. The most disadvantaged areas in Woking are in Sheerwater and Central & Maybury wards.

The Local Committee, through its Chairman and the Local Director, is represented on the Local Strategic Partnership for Woking which is considering how to build on the work of the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership in the most disadvantaged areas of Woking.

This report and the companion agenda item on the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership bring members up-to-date with other Surrey County Council developments that affect self-reliance in Woking and suggest how the Local Committee might respond.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to

1. Support the recommendation that Sheerwater and Central and Maybury wards are selected for the Surrey County Council self-reliance programme on the basis that this area is the most disadvantaged in Surrey.
2. Identify whether there are other projects funded by the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership which it would recommend as priorities for any available funding from whatever source.
3. Recommend that if Surrey County Council decides to fund any welfare rights advice in the voluntary sector, the advice project currently funded by the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership and managed by the Citizens Advice Bureau should be included (subject to best value).
4. Note that the *County Race Equality Scheme - Action for Race Equality* action plan commits Local Committees to ensuring that self-reliance projects are tested for race equality impact; and commits itself to assess the extent to which a service (whether provided by the County Council or another partner) meets the needs of the ethnic minority communities of Woking when the Local Committee receives a performance review report.

Introduction and Background

1. 'Self-reliance' means the same as the more commonly-used term 'social inclusion'. Surrey County Council's self-reliance policy, adopted on 6 November 2000, proposes an area-based approach to tackling deprivation by focusing on neighbourhoods that are multiply disadvantaged. Its three aims are:
 - To target help on disadvantaged individuals and communities so that they can become more self-reliant and enjoy a better quality of life.
 - To work at long-term solutions which will break the dependency cycle.
 - To work in partnership with other government organisations, the business community and the voluntary sector.
2. The Executive discussed Self-reliance on 7 January 2002 and identified the nine most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Surrey.
3. The self-reliance policy commits the County to developing five projects aimed at promoting self-reliance in the most disadvantaged areas in the county. The commitment is a key feature of the Public Service Agreement. It is in the County Council's Corporate Plan for 2002/03 *Making Surrey a Better Place*, which states that the authority will "improve self-reliance for disadvantaged groups as part of the development of community strategies. Part of the action to achieve this is for Local Committees to identify local areas of disadvantage and develop action plans to tackle these.
4. The Communities and Countryside Select Committee held a public hearing on 18 September 2002 to examine how the policy is starting to tackle problems of social exclusion such as poverty, lack of community facilities and youth crime.
5. The Race Relation Amendment Act 2001 laid new responsibilities onto local authorities. As a result the County published a *Race Equality Scheme - Action for Race Equality*, with an action plan which commits Local Committees to ensuring that self-reliance projects are tested for race equality impact.

Disadvantage in Woking

6. Annex A consists of the papers which informed discussions by the ACC Executive and the SRPIG (self-reliance policy implementation group). These show that Woking contains the top two most disadvantaged wards in Surrey.
7. The *South East Region Social Inclusion Statement* (Government Office for the South East, May 2002) breaks this down to show that Sheerwater is number 1572 on the Indices of Deprivation 2000, within the worst 20% but

not the worst 10%.

8. The overall index has six domains: low income, employment, health, education, housing and access to facilities.
9. Sheerwater is number 597 on the Education Domain of the Indices of Deprivation 2000, within the worst 10%.
10. Central & Maybury is number 91 and Sheerwater 775 on the Housing Domain of the Indices of Deprivation 2000, within the worst 10%, and Old Woking is at 1052, Mount Hermon East at 1249 and Kingfield and Westfield at 1666, within the worst 20%.
11. A breakdown of labour market statistics analysing unemployment in each Parliamentary constituency between February 2001 and 2002 showed that Woking had the second largest increase (after Wokingham) with 67.8% increase. Nevertheless, unemployment remains low.
12. Various other documents describe needs in Woking, the most recent and full being probably the papers produced to secure funding for the Surrey Law Project through the Community Legal Services partnership
13. The geographical areas in Woking which are most deprived are familiar to Members. It is also relevant to remember that although deprived communities are most often identified by geography, higher levels of deprivation can affect communities – sometimes described as “communities of interest” – which are not in geographic clusters. For example, people of pension age tend to be poorer than average, as do disabled people, people from ethnic minorities and single parents. There is, of course, sometimes a link between the two identifiers of deprivation. For example, the Pakistani community is concentrated in the most deprived geographical areas of Woking.

Resources for self-reliance projects in Surrey

14. In summer 2002, the County Council, the eleven boroughs/districts and the Learning and Skills Council together funded the Surrey Community Capacity Building Project. This consists of one worker. The project's aims and objectives include:
 - Encourage, promote and support active involvement by local people in the 20 most deprived areas of Surrey and increase community participation in identifying and addressing the needs of deprived areas of Surrey.
 - Build effective partnerships and networks to encourage social inclusion in deprived communities, particularly targeting areas without community workers.
 - Identify sources of funding and assist deprived communities in accessing funding opportunities.

15. Moving on to specific projects, the Executive made it clear on 7 January 2002 that it expects future self-reliance projects to be funded from mainstream service budgets even though the County Council funded initial projects in north Guildford and Preston. Responsibility for progressing this work is being passed to Local Committees.
16. County and District Councils are planning a Public Service Agreement (PSA) with the government which might include a self-reliance element. The government will pay us a premium if we can achieve robust new targets.
17. Other possible sources of funding for self-reliance initiatives include the Learning and Skills Council ESF co-financing scheme, Global Grants (up to £8000 for community groups in specific disadvantaged areas) and several national lottery funds. Charitable trusts and businesses provide further possibilities.

Resources for self-reliance projects in Woking

18. The relative deprivation of the Central & Maybury and Sheerwater wards in Woking led to the approval of Single Regeneration Budget (SRB). The Sheerwater Maybury Partnership includes statutory agencies and local groups. The Partnership funded numerous projects and a small secretariat. The SRB funding ends in March 2003.
19. The Partnership commissioned a small group including David Rousell, Chairman of the Local Committee, to carry out an evaluation of its work early in 2002. Decisions about future funding will be influenced by this evaluation.
20. The Board has developed proposal about the future of the partnership (as opposed to the projects it funds.)
21. Of the funded projects, some have achieved their purpose and come to an appropriate end. Some have been recognised as valuable. Of these, some are being incorporated into mainstream practice and funding of other agencies, and in other cases, there is the certainty or likelihood of future funding by other agencies. Some projects were less successful than hoped, and there is no drive for continuing to fund them. There remain some which are recognised as valuable but have not yet secured future funding.
22. The Sheerwater Maybury Partnership has produced an interim forward plan. A copy forms annex B.
23. The Woking Community Strategy, drawn up by the Woking Local Strategic Partnership, prioritises partnership action to continue the work of the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership. A verbal update will be made at the Local Committee meeting.
24. At the SRPIG meeting on 11 September 2002, it was agreed that, subject

to the views of services, SRPIG would recommend to the Surrey County Council Executive that Sheerwater and Central & Maybury are selected for a self-reliance programme on the basis that this area is the most disadvantaged in Surrey. The Executive is expected to consider its views in November.

25. If the recommendation is approved, this means that the various Surrey County Council services will jointly identify preventative projects in the area which they will fund from their own resources.
26. The Local Director encouraged the Surrey Community Capacity Building Project worker, during her initial planning period, to contact the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership and to prioritise work in the area.
27. The Local Committee decided on 11 September 2002 to allocate up to £28,163 of the members' allocations to support valuable projects which are losing SRB funding and which do not manage to find replacement funding from another source, with priority to projects for Asian women: the multi-cultural crèche at Maybury Centre which enables parents with childcare responsibilities to attend training, English classes and several other projects at the centre, and Woking Asian Women's Association.

Options for Local Committee

28. The Local Committee support the recommendation of SRPIG on 11 September 2002 that Sheerwater and Central and Maybury be selected for a self-reliance programme on the basis that this area is the most disadvantaged in Surrey.
29. The Local Committee could consider which of the other projects funded by the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership it would consider the priority for any available funding from whatever source.
30. The Local Committee could consider whether any projects should be incorporated into Surrey County Council mainstream funding streams. For example, the Surrey County Council Review of Welfare Rights Advice recommends that the county should fund provision of welfare rights advice in the voluntary sector. The Local Committee might wish to recommend that, if this recommendation is adopted, funding should go to the welfare rights advice project managed by the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendations

31. The Corporate Plan requires Local Committees to identify local areas of disadvantage and develop action plans to tackle these. The main areas of disadvantage within Woking have been identified, so this part of the Corporate Plan target has been met.
32. The recommendations in this report aim to support the Local Committee to work with other partners to meet the needs of the most deprived wards in Surrey.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: SCC Self-reliance Policy 9/11/00
SCC Executive Report 7/1/02
Making Surrey a Better Place 2002/3

ANNEX A

Criteria for determining the self-reliance roll-out areas

1. It is proposed that the next areas for the self-reliance programme should be chosen by the implementation group based on an assessment of a) needs and b) opportunity. The views of partner organisations also need to be sought.

2. Levels of need can be measured by comparing two key national indices of deprivation. The DTLR 2000 index is more up to date but the Jarman index, based on the 1991 Census, is considered by some services to be more relevant to the kind of deprivation found in Surrey. Both measure multiple deprivation, but the Jarman index is weighted more towards health and welfare issues. Economic deprivation and sub-standard housing are less important in the Surrey context. Comparing all of the wards in Surrey and combining their scores on the DTLR and Jarman national indices of deprivation creates the following shortlist. Further details about each of these wards are set out at the end of this annex.

Ward	DTLR Multiple Deprivation	Jarman	Combined rank in Surrey
Sheerwater	1	2	1
Central and Maybury	3	1	2
Preston	2	3	3
Court	4	10	4
Reigate North East	11	6	5
Ruxley	9	9	6
Leatherhead North	17	5	7
Westborough	10	14	8
Old Dean	13	13	9=
Stanwell South	5	21	9=
Walton North	18	8	9=

3. It is recommended that the statistical basis of this shortlist should be moderated by consideration of a range of 'opportunity' and 'equity' factors as set out below.

4. Some wards featuring offer economies of scale. As in North Guildford, a self-reliance project could span two or more deprived wards and thus provide greater cost benefit. Central/Maybury and Sheerwater are adjacent wards, as are Court and Ruxley, and Stanwell South and North.

5. Sheerwater and Central/Maybury have already benefited from significant external SRB investment over the past few years. It is important to consider whether the County should seek to build on this investment, or take action in other areas that are not eligible for deprivation-related government investment.

6. A range of different agencies acting together can most effectively address the self-reliance agenda. Partners' views on area priorities should therefore be sought prior to making a final decision, in order to identify the wards which offer the greatest opportunity for joint intervention and resourcing.

7. **Sheerwater (1) and Central and Maybury (2)** are Surrey's two most deprived wards are in Woking. They are adjacent, and could cost-effectively be tackled together as a single project. They are already the subjects of major external investment via the government's SRB programme. Despite this input, these wards remain the most deprived in Surrey. Government funding for the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership ends in 2003, and an exit strategy is currently being developed. It may be that these two wards should be considered for a self-reliance project in 2003/4, as a follow up to the existing regeneration programme.

ANNEX B

The Sheerwater/Maybury Partnership Forward Strategy Update August 2002

The Forward Strategy consists of three parts:

- Future for the existing projects
- Managing the legacy
- Continuing the work of the Partnership

1. The Future Funding for Existing Projects

Review Panel Methodology

- ◆ The Panel invited Project Leaders to report in writing on a template on their project status and to advise us of the future for their projects and any exit strategy they had developed.
- ◆ These reports were examined by the Panel on 31 January 2002
- ◆ Members of the Panel requested further inputs from some of the Project Leaders
- ◆ A final review by the panel was held on 20th February 2002

Listed below are the findings of the Review Panel under headings agreed by the Panel with a few minor amendments as a result of project leaders up dates. The project budgets are for April 2002 to March 2003.

A. Projects that will not need any further assistance

- i. **Homelink (H&E2)** - This project has achieved additional Government funding and went Borough wide in 2001 - 2002. It has now been built into the new structures within WBC and is likely to become part of their mainstream housing services. The Hardship fund continues to be funded by the Partnership
Project Budget £5,000
- ii. **Bilingual Nursery Assistants (S2)** - From January 2002 the Nursery Assistants were absorbed into the Surrey County Council Intercultural and English Language Service.
Project Budget £0
- iii. **Home School Liaison Officer (S3)** - This project has been successful in achieving European Social Funding until December 2003 via the Learning and Skills Council and will go Borough wide from September 2002. It will expand to include the appointment of two additional HSLO's.

Project Budget £21,673

- iv. **Play Facilities (H&E4)** - This project has exceeded its original aims as additional equipment has been provided. Development work will continue to take place on the multi games areas e.g. coaching. This, and the on-going maintenance / refurbishment will be managed by WBC.

Project Budget £17,500

- v. **Road Safety & Crime Prevention (H&E5)** - This project has met its aims to date and expects to meet all the outstanding commitments by March 2003. Maintenance will become the responsibility of Surrey County Council's Local Transportation Service.

Project Budget £120,000

- vi. **Private Rented Scheme (H&E1)** - This was a pilot project which was moderately successful laying the foundations for the future. The Project Leader did not wish any additional funding.

Project Budget £0

- vii. **Bookstart (S4)** - The project will continue as standard without "any extras" provided by the Sheerwater/Maybury Partnership.

Project Budget £0

- viii. **Stadium House (Exe4)** - This project finished at the end of March 2002. The project workers were relocated to The Depot until March 2003 and the LIAISE portacabin. The loan repayment by Spaceline Systems Limited will continue until March 2003.

Project Budget £0

- ix. **Mencap (H&WB7)** - This was a capital project built in 1998 which is self sufficient.

Project Budget £0

- x. **Sheerwater Community Centre** - According to the business plan the community Centre will be at break even, or very close to it, by 31/3/03 and will be self sustaining in future years.

Project Budget £0

- xi. **The Link course (ETE5)** - From April 2003 this project will be linked to the Surrey Care Trust and will be funded through that organisations ESF allocation.

Project Budget £1,913

- xii. **SRB Administration** - Whilst this project ends in March 2003 there remains a responsibility for the accountable body to complete end of scheme procedures

- xiii. **SRB Co-ordinator** - This project ends in March 2003

- xiv. **Project Workers Office Support** - This project ends in March 2003

- xv. **IT Learning Centres (ETE 8)** - This project has secured ESF Funding from the Learning and Skills Council until December 2003
- B. Projects which have met most of their outputs, and where a comprehensive Forward Strategy is in place with a good likelihood of succeeding.**
- i. **Sheerwater Community Development Worker (C1)** - The Management Committee has developed a Forward Strategy which will now involve the local community in preparing a bid to the Community Fund of the National Lottery for a post to continue the work.
Project Budget £30,463
- ii. **Sheerwater Drop in Centre in the Community Centre** - The management has joint funding until 2005/06 although it begins to taper. The intention is to apply to Woking Borough Council Grants Committee for any shortfall.
Project Budget £3,300
- iii. **Asian Advocacy Project (H&WB2)** - The newly established Woking Primary Care Trust are aware of this role and how it is managed and funded. Negotiations will need to take place to secure this post but the Project Leader is confident that the need for such a post has been clearly demonstrated.
Project Budget £11,842
- iv. **CAB Welfare Rights Workers** - Due to the success of this project, the Project Leader is determined that it will continue and in fact will expand to two full time posts covering the whole of the Borough He is optimistic of securing funding probably from Surrey County Council, Social Services, but possibly from Woking Borough Council.
Project Budget £34,382
- v. **Maybury and Central Community Development Worker** - The Project Leader believes that in the existing form this project will have met its intended objectives as far as the existing worker is concerned. The Partner Organisation recognises that there is a continuing need for community development with the Ethnic Minority Communities but this should be Woking wide. This has been included as part of WCRF's forward strategy for 2003 onwards.
Project Budget £33,213
- vi. **Maybury Drop in Centre** - Joint funding for the project ended in 2001. The Project Leader secured funding from WBC to cover the loss. Again she will be applying to WBC to increase the grant to cover the shortfall. She will also be applying to Tesco's Charities in December 2002.
Project Budget £3,400

- vii. **Asian Health Care Workers** - Given the importance of ensuring equality of access, and the benefits of the project to date, the Project Leader is fairly confident that the PCT and the North West Surrey Mental Health Partnership will take over the funding of this project.

Project Budget £14,646

- viii. **Community Health Clinics (H&WB4)** - As most of this project has been incorporated into mainstream service provision, the Project Leader is confident that the project can be absorbed into the PCT budget.

Project Budget £400

- ix. **Positive Parenting (H&WB15)** - The Project Leader is confident that the core costs will be met from the existing service budget, however the provision of a crèche will be vulnerable, therefore the parents from the Partnership area may be more disadvantaged by an inability to pay for child care costs whilst attending the course.

Project Budget £1,200

- x. **Healthier Nation Project Worker (H&WB1)** - This project is also looking to the PCT for funding. However it is possible that the role and purpose may change as determined by national/local policies e.g. NSFs and public health and health promotion needs across the Woking PCT area.

Project Budget £9,000

- xi. **Work & Training Advisor (ETE11)** - The Project Leader confirmed that Woking college are committed to taking on responsibility for this project. He is exploring options with potential funders and is very hopeful that "In Touch" will fund the continuation of this project.

Project Budget £18,036

C. Projects which are worthwhile and have a Forward Strategy but where the panel felt there was still uncertainty as to whether the strategies would be achieved.

- i. **Maybury Estate Facility (C4)** - The Project Leader will be formally approaching Woking Borough Council requesting them to provide continuation revenue funding. to ensure that the ARCH can continue to operate.

It is important that suitable local people, living in the community need to be identified and trained so that they are able to take on the role of trustees of the Community Association.

Project Budget £10,000

- ii. **ESOL for work (ETE10)** - The Project Leader confirmed that Woking college are committed to taking on responsibility for this project. He is exploring options with potential funders.

Project Budget £4,244

- iii. **Mentoring (ETE4)** - The Project Leader will be able to offer the programme to future cohorts, but funding for admin support cannot be planned unless a new source of funding can be identified.

Project Budget £3,477

- iv. **RISE Project (S3)** - The Saturday School at Bishop David Brown School. The Project Leader confirmed that the new SHINE Partnership, Cluster Manager, will be looking for funds to support this project. However it was pointed out that this was not a priority for the Cluster. BDB school cannot fund the project.

Project Budget £20,000

D Projects whilst although they have a Forward Strategy, have requested help from the Partnership as they are aware of how vulnerable they are

- i. **Link Leisure (H&WB8)** - The Project Leader is currently exploring funding options and has made applications however, acknowledging that is difficult, she has asked for additional help from the Partnership.

Project Budget £4,560

- ii. **Childcare (ETE7)** - The Project Leader has a very clear idea of how she wants the project to develop and has already applied for funding to the Community Fund of the National Lottery. They have successfully passed the first stage and will receive a final decision in November 2002. This multi cultural crèche is unique to the area, and it has been really successful at supporting different projects, however achieving continuation funding will be difficult as this kind of stand-alone project is expensive

Project Budget £20,030

- iii. **The Summer Literacy Scheme at Maybury Infants School (S5)**- Even though this has proved to be a very successful project, currently there is no mainstream funding available. The School belongs to the SHINE cluster and that partnership has a limited resource.

Project Budget £2,650

- iv. **WAWA - Woking Asian Women's Association (C8)**- This project has started to explore other sources of funding, but recognises that additional help may be needed

Project Budget £8,133

The Partnership is committed to helping those projects who need and have requested assistance.

According to both the panel and Executive Team the most vulnerable projects where there is still an element of doubt about the securing of future funding, in no particular order, are:

WAWA Co-ordinator	£8,133
Childcare	£20,030
ESOL for work	£4,224
Link Leisure	£4,560
Community Education	£20,000
Summer Literacy Scheme	£2,658
Total	£59,605

E. Projects which have received approval during 2002

- i. **Community Gardening Project (C9)** - This pilot project has been allocated £15,000. The Steering Committee, comprising the Partnership, Age Concern, the Allotment Society, the Probation Service, Homelink, Neighbourhood Watch and Woking Borough Council will be applying for continuation funding from the Phoenix Fund and also the National Lottery, Community Fund.
- ii. **Princess Road Shops Development (H&E 6)** - This is a small capital project (£7,680) which will not require any on-going revenue.
- iii. **Family Links Nurturing Project (S7)** - Through this project (£11,964) all the staff and the parents of the two primary schools in the Partnership area will be trained in the Family Links Nurturing Project. It is anticipated that any future training will be done in house or by Surrey County Council.

2 Managing the legacy

During the five years of the Partnership's life, it has been possible for the Partnership to build up a sum of money, non SRB (Single Regeneration Budget) funds. The Partnership Board decided to ring fence this fund, currently £250,000, for a legacy. This money is currently banked with Woking Borough Council. A decision still needs to be taken as to how this legacy will be managed in the future. Various options, including exploring the feasibility of a Surrey Wide Community Foundation, have been explored. The Partnership is now considering setting up a local endowment fund, which would be managed by the community, along similar lines to the very successful community grants programme. As this programme has supported many groups and individuals, helping them to grow and develop, it has been agreed that this would appear to be a very worthwhile use of the funds.