

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)****DATE:** 13 March 2014**LEAD****OFFICER:** SANDRA BROWN / MICHELLE COLLINS**SUBJECT:** LOCAL COMMITTEE & MEMBERS' ALLOCATION FUNDING -
UPDATE**DIVISION:** ALL**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey County Council Councillors receive funding to spend on local projects that help to promote social, economic or environmental well-being in the neighbourhoods and communities of Surrey. This funding is known as Members' Allocation.

For the financial year 2013/14 the County Council has allocated £12,876 revenue funding to each County Councillor and £35,000 capital funding to each Local Committee. This report provides an update on the projects that have been funded since May 2013 to date.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to note:**

- (i) The amounts that have been spent from the Members' Allocation and Local Committee capital budgets, as set out in Annex 1 of this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The allocation of the Committee's budgets is intended to enhance the wellbeing of residents and make the best possible use of the funds. Greater transparency in the use of public funds is achieved with the publication of what Members' Allocation funding has been spent on.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The County Council's Constitution sets out the overall Financial Framework for managing the Local Committee's delegated budgets and directs that this funding should be spent on local projects that promote the social, environmental and economic well-being of the area.
- 1.2 In allocating funds councillors are asked to have regard to Surrey County Council's Corporate Strategy 2010-14 Making A Difference that highlights five themes which make Surrey special and which it seeks to maintain:
- A safe place to live;
 - A high standard of education;
 - A beautiful environment;
 - A vibrant economy;
 - A healthy population.
- 1.3 Member Allocation funding is made to organisations on a one-off basis, so that there should be no expectation of future funding for the same or similar purpose. It may not be used to benefit individuals, or to fund schools for direct delivery of the National Curriculum, or to support a political party.

2. RECENT COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- 2.1 Several projects have been taken place within the last 3 months, here are a couple of the projects

Mediation Training for Surrey Heath Volunteers

A grant of £1,500 will assist the training of Surrey Heath based volunteers to act as mediators in the resolution of neighbourhood disputes. The Woking Community Mediation Service is being asked to do an increased amount of work within the Surrey Heath area, contributing to an unusually high demand for volunteer training this year.

It is estimated that upward of 100 people will benefit locally from the service provided, including the parties in dispute; plus the referrers of cases: Departments of the local Council, the Police and various Housing Associations

New Laptop for Youth Mentor

The Windle Valley Youth Project is setting up a mentoring programme to assist local 11 – 18 year olds at times of crisis or transition. A grant of £700 will enable the purchase of a secure laptop for use by the service co-ordinator. This will ensure the project can be effectively run and that all the data is protected.

The group are hoping mentor up to 20 young people in the first year.

New play equipment for the Chobham Recreation Ground

The childrens' play area in the Chobham Recreation Ground will receive an upgrade with the planned installation of a new trim-trail. A grant of £2,076 will combine with other funds raised locally to enable this work to take place. It is the initial part of a larger project to which Surrey County Council has made a conditional grant of £25,000 under its Improvement Fund for further equipment at the chobham children's playground

In the region of 400 children between the ages of 5-14 live in the Chobham area and will have access to the new facilities as well as those from outside the area who use the recreation ground after school.

3. ANALYSIS:

- 3.1 All the bids detailed in Annex 1 have been considered by and received support from the local county councillor and been assessed by the Community Partnerships Team as meeting the County Council's required criteria.

4. OPTIONS:

- 4.1 The Committee is being asked to note the bids that have already been approved.

5. CONSULTATIONS:

- 5.1 In relation to new bids the local councillor will have discussed the bid with the applicant, and Community Partnerships Team will have consulted relevant Surrey County Council services and partner agencies as required.

6. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 Each project detailed in this report has completed a standard application form giving details of timescales, purpose and other funding applications made. The county councillor proposing each project has assessed its merits prior to the project's approval. All bids are also scrutinised to ensure that they comply with the Council's Financial Framework and represent value for money.
- 6.2 The current financial position statements detailing the funding by each member of the Committee are attached at **Annex 1**. Please note these figures will not include any applications that were approved after the deadline for this report had past.

7. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The allocation of the Members' Allocation and Local Committee's budgets is intended to enhance the wellbeing of residents and make the best possible use of the funds. Funding is available to all residents, community groups or organisations based in, or serving, the area. The success of the bid depends entirely upon its ability to meet the agreed criteria, which is flexible.

8. LOCALISM:

- 8.1 The budgets are allocated by the local members to support the needs within their communities.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

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.

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 11.1 Payments to the organisations have, or will be paid to the applicants, and organisations are requested to provide publicity of the funding and also evidence that the funding has been spent within 6 months.

Contact Officer:

Jenny Harvey, Local Support Assistant, 01483 518111.

Consulted:

- Local Members have considered and vetted the applications
- Community Partnership Team have assessed the applications

Annexes:

Annex 1 – The breakdown of spend to date per County Councillor, including the breakdown of spend to date per County Councillor of the Local Committee Budget.

Sources/background papers:

- All bid forms are retained by the Community Partnerships Team