

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

### **OCTOBER 2014**

#### **(i) Community Improvements Fund – Panel Recommendations**

##### **Details of decision**

That the proposed grant funding, totalling £566,286 set out in the Appendix 1 be approved, and the position of the applications agreed at the previous meetings held be noted.

##### **Reasons for decision**

Approval of the proposed grant funding will enable the Community Partnerships Team to progress with facilitating the payments relating to the Community Improvements Fund.

*(Decision of Leader of the Council – 6 October 2014)*

#### **(ii) Document Storage and Delivery Service**

##### **Details of decision**

- (1) The information relating to the procurement process, as set out in this report, be noted; and
- (2) The award of a framework agreement to Deepstore Limited on the basis of a 2 year contract with the option to extend for 2 years as set out in the Part 2 report be agreed.

##### **Reasons for decision**

The existing contract with Deepstore Limited will expire on 31 October 2014. A full tender process, in compliance with the requirement of EU Procurement Legislation and Procurement Standing Orders, has been completed and the recommendations provide best value for money for the Council following a thorough evaluation process.

*(Decision of Cabinet Member for Business Services – 8 October 2014)*

#### **(iii) Petition: In relation to continued development in Surrey**

##### **Details of decision**

That the response, attached as Appendix 2, be approved.

##### **Reasons for decision**

To respond to the petition.

*(Decision of Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning – 8 October 2014)*

**Appendix 1**

Name and Description	Amount Approved	Any conditions relating to approval
<b>Sunbury and Walton Sea Cadets</b> Creation of an enhanced multi-boating facility	£30,000	No additional conditions
<b>St Mark's Community Centre</b> Improvements to the community centre	£20,000	No additional conditions.
<b>Epsom &amp; Ewell Borough Council</b> Building an enhanced playground	£30,000	No additional conditions
<b>Guildford Cathedral</b> Build disabled access, install induction loop and upgraded sound system	£29,990	No additional conditions
<b>Pyrford Village War Memorial Hall</b> Improve stage and build a community room	£30,000	No additional conditions
<b>Cobham Village Hall</b> Boiler replacement and remedial acoustic works	£19,000	1) Funding to be spent on the boiler replacement and remedial acoustic works of the project. Subject to all the remaining funding being in place, and all three competitive quotes received.
<b>Godalming Lawn Tennis Club</b> Clubhouse redevelopment	£30,000	No additional conditions
<b>Charlwood Pavilion</b> Improvements to the pavilion	£30,000	No additional conditions
<b>St. Francis Church</b> Rewiring and relighting of the church	£23,296	No additional conditions
<b>Leatherhead Youth Project</b> Providing the Cafe with commercial catering facilities	£10,000	No additional conditions
<b>St. Luke's Church, Reigate</b> Replacement of extension to build new community rooms	£30,000	No additional conditions
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Byfleet Scouts</b>	£30,000	1) Subject to planning permission being

Creation of a new activity centre building		granted.
<b>Marwick Hall Management Committee</b> Upgrading kitchen	£14,000	No additional conditions
<b>West End Parish Council</b> Enhanced playground in Benner Lane	£30,000	1) Subject to all the funding in place and some financial support from the Borough Council as stated in the bid.
<b>Holland Athletic Sports Club</b> Refurbishment of a running track and improved facilities	£30,000	1) Funding is towards the running track element of this bid. 2) Subject to measures being put in place by the club to publicise the wider community activities. 3) Subject to the club working with the authority to source a second quote
<b>Hambledon Village Shop Ltd</b> To develop an indoor cafe are	£30,000	1) Subject to planning permission, and the IPS share scheme in place
<b>Spelthorne Borough Council</b> Creation of a natural play area in Orchard Meadow, Sunbury	£20,000	No additional conditions
<b>Brockham Parish Council (Youth Council)</b> Creation of a new skatepark in Brockham	£28,000	1) Subject to the viability and confirmation of the land use change, also that the organisation has all the funding in place.
<b>All Saint's Church, New Haw</b> Replacement of flooring	£20,000	1) Grant to be awarded for up to £20,000, with any balance of the contingency unused to be returned to the Council.
<b>Waverley Borough Council</b> Creation of a new skatepark in Haslemere,	£30,000	No additional conditions
<b>Thursley Parish Council</b> Enhancement of a play area on Thursley Recreation Ground	£10,000	No additional conditions
<b>St Paul's Church, Camberley</b> Kitchen upgrade	£12,000	No additional conditions
<b>Windlesham Parish Council</b> Development of a new pavilion at Lightwater Recreation Ground	£30,000	1) Subject to seeing detailed plans and quotes, as well as all the funding being in place.

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSE TO PETITION**

'Surrey is under constant bombardment from developers, all keen to seek the best financial return on their developments by building in the areas with the biggest cash return. Each borough has an agreed allocation of new housing that requires to be completed by 2028, which has been subdivided by the borough council into parishes/villages/towns.

Developers are filing planning applications which are far in excess of those published, adopted allocations (sometimes demanding release of the green belt), and which are unsustainable, due to poor infrastructure. The developer contributions will not fund all the required roads and services, so the tax payer will have to pay or go without. These developments will put immense strain on local roads, services and jobs. We understand the concept of providing affordable and local homes for local people, which can be provided by minimal infill development. We call upon Surrey County Council and local MPs to lobby parliament to call a halt to this madness.'

Presented by Diane Doney.

**RESPONSE:**

I would like to thank Mrs Doney and all those who signed the petition for bringing the concerns of residents to the attention of the Council.

Firstly, I should point out that the allocation of housing in local plans and the determination of planning applications for housing development are entirely the responsibility of each borough and district in Surrey as local planning authority and the Council has no control over the process. The Council is, however, a key provider of infrastructure and services such as roads and schools and the Local Highway Authority. In this capacity, it is consulted on development proposals and has a legal Duty to Cooperate with the boroughs and districts as they prepare Local Plans. This includes the provision of infrastructure to meet the needs of new development and the Council shares residents concerns over how this infrastructure is to be funded.

**Government Policy**

The Localism Act 2011 gave boroughs and districts responsibility for determining the level of new housing in their area and its location following the abolition of the regional tier of government, which formerly set the targets for housing through regional strategies. This system no longer applies, but many of the adopted Local Plans (or Core Strategies) in Surrey have as their housing requirement the target that was set out in the South East Plan.

Government guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) now requires the number of houses in Local Plans to be based on an objective assessment of housing need for the local housing market area and local authorities should plan positively to meet this need. Meeting housing needs is fundamental to government policies to support economic growth and to address the current shortfall in housing provision. In Surrey, these 'objectively assessed needs' are higher than the housing requirements that were

established through the South East Plan. Central to the NPPF, however, is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and local planning authorities should take account of local circumstances, particularly environmental constraints and the Green Belt, in striving to meet their assessed housing needs. They are also required to have a five year supply of available land for housing development at any one time.

#### Council's Position

In line with Government guidance, the Council supports a plan led system where the scale and location of growth to meet needs is set through Local Plans in consultation with local communities and other key stakeholders.

The Council is concerned about the environmental impacts of development and on 19 March 2013 resolved:

1. To use its power to protect Surrey's Green Belt.
2. To support the National Planning Policy Framework (section 9 – paragraphs 79 to 92) and the Government's policy of protecting the Green Belt.
3. To make Surrey's MPs and the County's Districts and Boroughs aware of this resolution.
4. That any Green Belt development in the County is in line with the needs and wishes of Surrey residents.

Nonetheless, economic growth is a key priority for Surrey and the Council recognises that this needs to be supported by some housing growth and, in line with the NPPF, it is important that development is sustainable and supported by the right infrastructure. Therefore, the Council is working with boroughs and districts to draw up Infrastructure Delivery Plans to support their Local Plans and to ensure that they can secure contributions from developers towards the cost of providing infrastructure to avoid these costs being borne by local residents through increases in council tax. However, I agree with you that developer contributions will not fund all the infrastructure required to support new development in Surrey.

Therefore, the Council is working in partnership with the boroughs and districts to secure funding for strategic infrastructure from the Local Economic Partnerships and from central government and has been actively lobbying Government on a regular basis for additional infrastructure investment in Surrey. For example, the Leader and Chief Executive have met with the Secretary of State for Transport to press Surrey's case for investment to help deliver strategic transport priorities including improvements to the A3, the North Downs Line orbital rail route that links Reading and Redhill and access to Heathrow and Gatwick Airports. The Council has successfully lobbied Government to retain the New Homes Bonus to help deliver infrastructure and is currently making the case at national level for more funding to meet future needs for school places in Surrey. The Leader has also called for a new cabinet minister for infrastructure to be appointed before any decision is made on expanding Heathrow and Gatwick to coordinate investment now in road, rail, healthcare and schools.

I can assure you that the Council will continue to take every opportunity to

raise these issues and lobby Government to address residents' concerns.

**Mr Mike Goodman**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning**  
**8 October 2014**