



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 24 JUNE 2015
LEAD OFFICER: MICHELLE COLLINS, TEAM LEADER WEST, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

SUBJECT: MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS 2014/15 OVERVIEW – ANNUAL SUMMARY

AREA: WOKING

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 2014/15 the County Council had allocated £10,300 revenue funding to each County Councillor and £35,000 capital funding to the Joint Committee. This report provides annual update on the projects that have been funded in 2014/15.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woking Joint Committee 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 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 2015-20 Confident in Surrey's Future that highlights the following themes.
- Wellbeing
 - Economic prosperity
 - Resident experience
- 1.3 As with all expenditure by the Council, spending of members' allocations should:
- Be directed to activities for which the County Council has legal powers;
 - Meet demonstrable local needs;
 - Deliver value for money, so that there is evidence of the outcomes achieved;
 - Be consistent with County Council policies;
 - Be approved through a process that is open and transparent, consultative, accountable, and auditable;
 - Where appropriate, allow opportunities to be taken to pool funds with partner organisations.
- 1.4 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. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 Members funded 53 projects over the last year. The projects were promoted through twitter and the local news pages at www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking . The list of projects funded during 2014/15 can be found in annex 1.

3. OPTIONS:

- 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. CONSULTATIONS:

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

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The local councillor will have discussed the bid with the applicant and the Community Partnerships Team will have consulted relevant Surrey County Council services and partner agencies as required.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 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.
- 6.2 All bids are received and scrutinised by officers in the County's Community Partnerships Team. We also contact officers from other services and departments for advice if we require additional information or specialist knowledge to assess the suitability of projects.
- 6.3 We ensure that bids comply with the Council's Financial Framework which contains the financial rules and regulations governing how Members' Allocations funding can be spent.
- 6.4 The financial position statements detailing the funding by each member of the Committee are attached at **Annex 1**.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The allocation of the Members' Allocation and Joint 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 the same for all projects.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

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

| 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 |
| Human Resource/Training and Development | No significant implications arising from this report |

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

10.1 The Committee are asked to note the projects that have been funded through Member Allocation revenue and capital funding during 2014/5.

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

11.1 Each councillor has at least £10,300 for 2015/16. They can fund activities costing just a few pounds or help to fund some that cost much more. The funding is designed to be flexible and can help with a variety of costs ranging from hiring a village hall for a group to meet in, to helping re-build a community hall that may have fallen into disrepair.

11.2 The first step is to contact the local councillor for your area to discuss your project and how much money you will need. Once you have your councillor's support and they have indicated how much they will contribute, they will tell you how to access the online application form.

11.3 When your form has been completed and assessed, we will let you know if the funding has been approved. We will then tell you when the funding will be paid to you.

Contact Officer:

Shaista Salim Local Support Assistant, 01483 518094

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 Joint Committee Budget.

Sources/background papers:

- All bid forms are retained by the Community Partnerships Team
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