

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)****DATE: 17 JUNE 2015****LEAD OFFICER: SANDRA BROWN****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 2015/16 the County Council has allocated £10,296 revenue funding to each County Councillor. This report provides an update on the projects that have been funded since April 2015 to date.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to note:**

- (i) The amounts that have been spent from the Members' Allocation budget, 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 2015-20 Confident in Surrey's Future that highlights three themes which make Surrey special and which it seeks to maintain:
  - 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. RECENT COMPLETED PROJECTS:**

2.1 Several projects have taken place within the last 3 months, here are two examples of the projects

### **Old Pixham School Renovation Project**

£3,400 was given to Pixham Residents Association by County Councillor Hazel Watson, towards the Old Pixham School renovation project. The Old Pixham School is the hub for community events in Pixham. The running costs for the upkeep of the building are obtained through various fundraising events, ranging from coffee mornings to a film club. The existing carpet, which has become threadbare in places and badly stained, is in need of replacement. The current management committee are struggling to hire out the hall as the carpet throughout the main rooms, are aged and dirty. To ensure that the hall can continue to operate, a replacement carpet will ensure that the hall is in an acceptable condition for hire.

### **Leatherhead Drama Festival**

County Councillors Tim Hall and Chris Townsend contributed £3,500 towards the Leatherhead Drama Festival (LDF) which took place between: 27 April – 9 May 2015. The Festival enables local Junior and Adult drama groups to showcase their ability and talent, this helps develop their cultural and social skills, whilst entertaining the audience. Eight new plays have been written, and will be performed for the first time at the Festival. Positive audience response and high level of applications from drama groups to participate demonstrates the LDF fulfils their needs and expectations. Since inauguration in 2004, the LDF has become the biggest festival of its kind in the UK. A sign it is successfully filling a real need.

### **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 received and scrutinised by officers in the County's Community Partnership 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. 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.
- 6.2 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 the same for all projects.

### **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 by officers in the Community Partnerships Team, 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 e.g. posters, leaflets, articles in newsletters. We also require evidence that the funding has been spent within 6 months e.g. receipts, photos, invoices.

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**Contact :** Sue O’Gorman, Local Support Assistant, [sue.ogorman@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.ogorman@surreycc.gov.uk)

**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.

**Sources/background papers:**

- All bid forms are retained by the Community Partnerships Team
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