

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 24 June 2013
 REPORT BY: Michael Bennison
 Chairman of Elmbridge LC 2012-13
 SUBJECT: Chairman's Report 2012/13
 DIVISION: All

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To review the work of the Elmbridge Local Committee over the last municipal year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to note:

- (i) The contents of the report

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The report demonstrates how the Elmbridge Local Committee is an excellent example of how County and Borough Councillors can work together for the benefit of the residents of the borough and its contents are recommended to be noted.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Elmbridge Local Committee held 5 formal meetings, one of which was a special meeting, and 4 informal meetings during the municipal year 2012/13. Members of the Committee also sat on a number of outside bodies and task groups, details of which are set out in this report.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The following activity occurred at the 5 Formal meetings during 2012/13:

Petitions/letters of representation received	9
Questions submitted	6
Reports presented	32

2.2 . Petitions

In 2012/13 under Surrey County Council's Constitution, petitions containing over 100 signatures could be submitted prior to the meeting from members of the public and local businesses. However, the Local Committee continued to acknowledge the importance of public engagement and therefore permitted petitions with fewer than 100 signatures, subject to the Chairman's approval. These are referred to as 'letters of representation' for clarity, but are dealt with in the same manner as normal petitions. The nine petitions received, all relating to Highways, came from all areas of the borough and included requests for speed

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reduction measures and road repairs. As required by the Council's Constitution and the Local Protocol, all the petitions and letters of representation received were responded to, either at the same or following meeting.

2.3 Questions

Formal questions can be submitted prior to the meeting by members of the public, local businesses and members of the Local Committee. Of the questions submitted three were from members of the public and three from Councillors.

2.4 Reports

The reports presented mainly covered the implementation of various highways and parking schemes, but also included decisions and updates on the Local Prevention Framework, a contract, to carry out work within the borough to help prevent young people from becoming NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) and updates from the Schools and Learning Service and Surrey Fire & Rescue. In addition the Local Committee has provided funding to numerous local community projects and organisations. Details of funding made available by the Local Committee can be found in section 2.6 of this report.

2.5 Highways

In 2012/13 the Local Committee was delegated highway budgets consisting of the following:

Local Revenue: £266,620

Community Pride: £45,000

Capital Integrated Transport Schemes: £202,084

Capital Maintenance: £202,084

Total Budget £715,788

Schemes funded from the Capital Integrated Schemes Budget

Scheme	Description
Weybridge Station – pedestrian improvements	Improved pedestrian crossing facilities across the B374 Design only this FY
Church Street Cobham	New weight restriction
Oxshott Speed Management Package	Phase 1: Extension of speed limit Phase 2: VAS & hard standing for mobile enforcement
Stoke Rd Cobham	Extension of 30mph speed limit
Cleves School	New pedestrian crossing
Borough wide mobility ramps	New mobility ramps at various locations.
Woodlands Rd Speed Limit amendment	Cross boundary speed limit reduction
Fairmile Lane safety improvements	Casualty reduction scheme at junction with Miles Lane
CIL/2013/14 Scheme Development	Feasibility work to identify and develop schemes for future years

Scheme	Description
Queens Rd/Old Avenue Weybridge Pedestrian safety measures	Casualty reduction scheme
Speed Management (Boroughwide)	Localised measures to assist in the implementation of the Elmbridge Speed Management Plan

Members of the Local Committee decided to allocate £46,000 of the total budget to each of the nine divisions. The £46,000 was made up of £5,000 per division from the Community Pride budget and £18,500 per division from the Local Revenue budget and £22,500 from the Capital Maintenance budget.

There was also funding carried forward from 2011/12:

- Local Revenue carry forward: £41,100
- Capital Integrated Transport Schemes carry forward: £135,400

In addition in Spring 2013 the Local Committee members were proactively involved in deciding which roads in Elmbridge were included in Operation Horizon, the county council's 5 year £100m investment programme running from 2013 to 2018.

2.6 Local Committee Funding

Surrey County Council's Local Committees receive funding to spend on locally determined purposes that help to promote social, economic and/or environmental well-being. This funding is known as Members Allocations.

For the financial year 2012/13, the County Council allocated £12,615 revenue funding to each County Councillor and £35,000 capital funding to the Elmbridge Local Committee.

The Committee spent the funding in the following categories.

Revenue Breakdown by Category

Category	£	%
Community Development (Children & Young People)	£32,517	30%
Community Safety	£2,200	2%
Community Development (General)	£18,546	17%
Community Development (Lifelong Learning)	£3,035	2.8%
Older People	£1,400	1.3%
Highways	£13,798	12.6%
Early Years & Childcare	£4,500	4%
Culture & Heritage (Open Spaces)	£19,079	17.3%
Culture & Heritage (Arts & Museums)	£3,575	3.3%
Special Educational Needs	£500	0.5%
Schools (Primary)	£3,299	3%
Schools (Secondary)	£1,998	1.8%
Environment (Cemeteries & Monuments)	£5,235	4.8%
total	£109,682*	

*Less than revenue budget due to small underspend.

Capital Breakdown by Category

Category	£	%
Community Development (Children & Young People)	£1,000	2.5%
Community Development (General)	£19,495	49%
Highways	£6,000	15%
Culture	£5,000	12.5%
Culture & Heritage	£2,395	6%
Schools (Primary)	£4,995	12.5%
Environment (Cemeteries & Monuments)	£2,000	5%
total	£39,885*	

*more than capital budget due to return of funding from previous year.

Task Groups

2.7 Parking Task Group

The Parking Task Group met once in 2012/13 having been established by the Local Committee in June 2011. Members from both Surrey County Council and Elmbridge Borough Council sit on the group and are supported by relevant parking officers.

2.8 On 8 February 2013 the Parking Task Group considered the proposals which were a result of the 2012/13 Annual Parking Review.

2.9 Youth Task Group

The Youth Task Group had been established by the Local Committee in 2011 to assist and advise officers in relation to Youth Issues and the future delivery of youth provision locally. It was agreed at the Local Committee meeting on September 10th 2012 to extend the current Local Prevention Framework contract until the end of August 2013 and request for organisations to bid in Spring 2013 for a 2 year contract to run from September 2013 to August 2015. The task group consisting of County and Borough Members and officers met in January 2013 to devise and recommend a Local Specification of commissioning priorities to meet the needs of Elmbridge young people at risk of becoming NEET. The specification was agreed at the Local Committee meeting on February 25th and it made up an integral part of the criteria against which applicants have recently been judged. The new contract, now being described as a grant, is expected to be awarded at the Local Committee on 24th June 2013.

Local Committee Members on Outside Bodies

2.10 Elmbridge Business Network

The Elmbridge Business Network was formed in April 2006. It aims to bring together business representatives from across the borough to work on projects and initiatives which will help ensure that Elmbridge retains its vibrant local economy. Mr Ernest Mallett represented Surrey County Council on the network during 2012/13.

2.11 Elmbridge Community Partnership

Elmbridge Community Partnership (ECP) is the local strategic partnership for Elmbridge. It was formally established in April 2002 and consists of representatives from public agencies along with those from the business,

community and voluntary sectors. Mrs Margaret Hicks represented Surrey County Council on the partnership during 2012/13.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TEAM

- 2.12 In November 2012 Damian Markland left the role as Community Partnership & Committee Officer (CPCO) in Elmbridge to take up a secondment in Democratic Services. He was replaced at the end of January 2013 by Cheryl Poole, on secondment until the end of November 2013. This officer supports the work of the Elmbridge Local Committee and its Members, represents Surrey County Council on sub-groups of the Community Safety Partnership, provides a key link between the Borough and the County Council and works closely with local community groups and organisations on a range of different projects and initiatives. The CPCO is managed by the Community Partnership Team Leader for East Surrey, Sandra Brown, and is supported by an admin team based out of Woking which manages the Member Allocation process. From June 2013 the administrator will be spending approximately one day per week working in the Esher office.
- 2.13 The local CPCO along with Members has supported a number of "Let's Talk" events organised by the Borough. These events allow residents to come and discuss issues with local partners, including Surrey County Council. The events are based around a market stall theme, with each partner having a stand from which they can provide information and advice.
- 2.14 The Community Improvement Fund of £750,000 launched by Surrey County Council Leader David Hodge to help groups improve local areas was open for applications from April 2012. The application process has been managed by the Community Partnership Team, with the local CPCO working closely with local community groups and organisations to guide them through the process. From the 29 successful bids two were for groups in Elmbridge. In round 1 the 1st Weybridge Scout group received £21,280 to renovate the scout hut and in round 2 the Three Rivers Children's Centre in West Molesey was awarded £25,000 to develop their outdoor space. In 2013/14 the Community Improvement Fund has been increased to £1 million and the deadline for the first round of funding is midday on 28th June 2013.

3. CONSULTATIONS:

- 3.1 Consultation involving the community and statutory and voluntary partners from the outset has been key principle in taking forward and developing local initiatives. All County Councillors with the assistance of Officers when required are committed to ensure that local residents are listened to and kept fully informed of issues in their areas.

4. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The Elmbridge Local Committee has contributed to many partnership projects within the Borough, reinforcing the reputation of the Council's Members at a local level. A large number of voluntary groups and organisations in the borough have benefited from funding through the Members Allocations.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 A key aspect of all initiatives is to ensure sensitivity and responsiveness to diversity. The Local Committee is sensitive to the needs of the community and positively promotes equality through our activity and communications. If any member of the public requires the committee papers in large print or Braille, or another language, or special requirements such as an induction loop, this can be undertaken as required.

6. LOCALISM:

- 6.1 The Elmbridge Local Committee is an excellent example of localism, offering the opportunity for decisions to be made at a local level. The residents of Surrey have the opportunity to attend the meetings and submit questions and petitions to ensure their opinion is heard. The Members Allocations give groups the opportunity to make a difference at a very local level.

7. 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.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 8.1 I believe that the Elmbridge Local Committee is an excellent example of how Borough and County Councillors can work together for the benefit of residents. The changes in the Constitution have given increased voting rights to Borough Members from the municipal year 2013/14 and have hopefully made it easy for residents to engage with the Local Committee. The sustained level of Members Allocation funding, will help us continue to improve services for residents, brighten up our environment and ultimately strive to make Elmbridge the best place to live in England.
- 8.2 I am very pleased that Surrey County Council has launched Operation Horizon, the county council's 5 year £100m investment programme running from 2013 to 2018. Having a planned programme for 5 years should ensure there is a definite improvement in the condition of the roads and also ensure SCC makes best use of its resources.
- 8.3 In recommending this report for noting I would like to thank all Members of the Local Committee, both County and Borough and supporting officers for their hard work during 2012/13.

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

9.1 The Elmbridge Local Committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis and welcome questions and petitions from residents and businesses.

Contact Officer:

Cheryl Poole

Community partnership & Committee Officer

cheryl.poole@surreycc.gov.uk

Consulted:

Not applicable

Annexes:

None attached

Sources/background papers:

- Highways Update report - Elmbridge Local Committee 19/11/12
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