

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

DATE: 5 JULY 2013

LEAD OFFICER: JOHN HILDER, AREA HIGHWAYS MANAGER



SUBJECT: LOCALISM IN HIGHWAYS: AN UPDATE ON DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS DELIVERY

DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS IN WAVERLEY

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Surrey County Council is working with parish and town councils and other local organisations to explore and establish, where feasible, appropriate locally-managed highway service delivery. This report provides the Local Committee with a summary of bids received from parish and town councils and other organisations in Waverley (**Annex 1**), and requests that members agree levels of funding to be allocated to these organisations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to agree :

- (i) the level of funding to be allocated to those organisations who have submitted bids in **Annex 1**.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Initial discussions with divisional members, area highways officers, parish and town councils, and other organisations took place before the Local Committee in March 2013 and an update and early bid proposals were provided at that stage. At the March Local Committee meeting, members of the Committee decided to invite all Waverley parish and town councils to bid for the £20,000 allocated for this initiative in the borough; a decision on allocation will enable parish councils in Waverley to take on some minor highways tasks.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 Service providers and public bodies are exploring ways of involving local organisations and communities in continuing to improve the relevance, quality and effectiveness of services in their neighbourhoods. In a drive to greater 'localism', Surrey County Council is working with parish and town councils and other community organisations to establish locally-managed highway service delivery.

1.2 In 2013/14 local committees have the opportunity to launch this increased involvement of neighbourhoods in decision-making and delivery of services. Parish councils, town councils and other local groups are submitting bids to local committees for highways related works they would like to carry out, manage or commission in their area during 2013/14.

1.3 Initial discussions with divisional members, area highways officers, parish and town councils, and other organisations took place before the Local Committee in March 2013 and an update and early bid proposals were provided at that stage. At the March Local Committee meeting, members of the committee decided to invite all Waverley parish and town councils and other local organisations to bid for the £20,000 allocated for this initiative in the borough. The table in **Annex 1** summarises the bids received.

1.4 The Local Committee is therefore invited to allocate funding to facilitate local initiatives from the agreed £20,000 Highways revenue budget set aside in Waverley for this purpose. County councillors may also wish to consider supplementing future initiatives through their Community Enhancement 2013/2014 allocations.

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 The county council has been working closely with parish and town councils and other local organisations, to help facilitate their bid for funding to carry out small highways tasks and one-off jobs, as agreed by members and with support from the Area Highways team.

2.2 Following discussion with the divisional member and Highways team, the parish or town council, or other local organisation may submit a bid proposal for funding to deliver identified highways tasks in their neighbourhood.

2.3 Once the Divisional Member or the Local Committee has agreed to support the proposal on an annual basis, the work will be established with six monthly reviews.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 The Local Committee is invited to allocate funding to the attached bids in **Annex 1**, from the agreed £20,000 Highways revenue budget set aside in Waverley for this purpose. County members may also wish to consider supplementing future initiatives through their Community Enhancement 2013/2014 allocations.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 The Highways Localism initiative is at an early stage and is still taking shape. Each proposal needs partnership consultation and agreement from members, highways officers and other appropriate partners according to the local needs and priorities in that neighbourhood. It is not a 'one-size fits all' approach.

4.2 Consultations will continue with all partners to monitor and review the outcomes and modify the processes to ensure good practice, value for money and quality delivery. This evaluation will be shared with members.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Budgets will be allocated from Highways revenue funds, monitored and reviewed through a transparent and agreed process, with members' and the Local Committee's agreement and Highways' support.

5.2 Services will be delivered where communities and neighbourhoods have identified a need, focusing funding on the key community priorities and exploring wider funding opportunities where possible.

5.3 The Section 151 Officer is aware of and content with this initiative.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications at this time.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 Communities in Waverley will be directly involved in this initiative, with parish councils carrying out minor highways tasks that local communities consider a priority. Localism underpins this approach.

8. 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

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 This paper provides the Local Committee with current Highways Localism bid proposals from parish and town councils and other organisations in Waverley, and requests that members agree levels of support to those organisations from the £20,000 Highways revenue fund set aside by the Local Committee for this purpose.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Services will be developed and delivered through partnerships with parish and town councils and other local organisations. Monitoring and review of these approaches will also be established.

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Consulted:

County Councillors, parish councils in Waverley, Highways officers, Surrey Association of Local Councils (SALC).

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Organisations who have submitted a bid for decision and details of applications.

Sources/background papers:

Bid proposals submitted by interested parish councils.
