

CABINET- 20 DECEMBER 2022**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES,
ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS SELECT COMMITTEE****Resolved:**

The Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee:

1. Welcomes the accelerated pace of Your Fund Surrey (YFS) approvals over recent months albeit the totals are somewhat short of original estimates.
2. Strongly supports the introduction (within the YFS Framework) of the new regime designed to encourage smaller capital bids by providing an allocation of £50,000 (over two years) to each Member for this purpose, with encouragement to spend on Greener Futures initiatives should they wish.
3. Urges consideration of the possibility of increasing this Member allocation up to £100,00 to facilitate larger but not complex community projects.
4. Commends the efforts of the Community Link Officers (CLOs) to raise awareness of YFS in the more deprived areas but other actions may be necessary to secure successful funding for community projects in Deciles one and two. The Committee regards this as a high priority

John O'Reilly

Chairman of the Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee

13 December 2022

Response:

Thank you for your consideration of the YFS report at the recent Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee and for the recommendations you have laid out.

As recognised in point one, a greater number of applications are now being discussed by the Advisory Panel than 8 months ago. YFS is a new and innovative scheme which is led by the community and the timing is dictated, to a certain extent, by them. Some of the projects are very complex in nature and involve various other parties. Quite rightly we need to ensure that comprehensive checks and due-diligence are carried out when considerable levels of taxpayers' money is being spent. The YFS team have been working hard with applicants to develop their applications and we expect considerably more full submissions next year.

The team will continue to support communities to benefit from YFS investment. This includes providing support throughout the process, both for the larger more complex projects and, from early in the new year, the smaller capital applications being led by Members.

We will monitor the throughput and spend of the small capital bids to allow us to consider whether any further funds should be committed in this way in the future.

Lastly, thank you for recognising the work our Community Link Officers are doing to raise awareness of the fund in more deprived areas. As referenced at the Select Committee, we have started conversations with partners such as Community Foundation for Surrey and key voluntary organisations to work through what further support could be offered to enable communities to successfully bring projects forward.

Denise Turner-Stewart

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety

20 December 2022