

Report to Chesham & Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum

Title:	LOCAL AREA FORUM BUDGETS
Date:	23 June 2010
Author:	Rebecca Carley
Contact officer:	Alison Derrick 01494 586635
Electoral divisions affected:	Chesham North West Chesham East Chess Valley Chiltern Ridges

Summary

1. This paper describes the arrangements for the allocation of the funding devolved to Local Area Forums (LAFs) in 2010/11.
2. The amount of funding awarded to each project by the Local Area Forum in 2009/10 is outlined from paragraph 25 onwards. An annual review document containing more detailed information on each of the projects is currently being prepared and will be made available to LAF members, and more widely, as soon as it is completed.

Recommendation

3. **The Chesham & Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum is recommended to note the arrangements in 2010/11 for its devolved budgets as described in the report and also note the expenditure of the funding allocated to the LAF in 2009/10.**

Background

4. A key element of the Locality Services vision is "Genuine and increased influence by residents over local decisions and budgets". LAFs are central to achieving this (although this is not the only mechanism for working at a more local level).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



5. This vision has led to an increased range of decisions, services and budgets that can be influenced within the framework of the 19 community areas and via the LAFs. In line with the County Council's aim to increase local decision making, the LAFs' Local Priorities budget has been substantially increased from £8,000 in 2009/10 to £20,000 per LAF in 2010/11.

Budgets Devolved to LAFs in 2010-11

6. The devolved budgets for 2010/11 are set out in the table below.

Service area	County-wide total	Chesham & Chiltern Villages LAF
Transportation local improvements	£500,000	£35,292
Positive Activities for Young People	£95,000	£5,000
"Early Years" grant	£95,000	£5,000
Local Priorities budget	£380,000	£20,000
Total	£1,070,000	£65,292

General Principles for the Management and Decision-Making of Devolved Budgets

7. All funding must be spent in line with the specific criteria associated with the budget (see below).
8. The funding must be spent within the financial year for which it is allocated.
- For 2010/11, in consultation with the LAF Chairman, each Head of Service concerned will take a view in November 2010 on the likelihood of unspent monies being used that year. If there is budget that is unlikely to be spent that year, it will revert back to the service concerned for allocation to activities that will benefit the area during 2010/11.
9. As in 2009/10, in terms of formal decision-making, the LAFs will be advising the relevant Head of Service on how to spend the devolved budget who will then implement that advice.
10. To allow for the occasional unforeseen opportunity that requires a swift decision, funding may be agreed in-between LAF meetings in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and other LAF members for the neighbourhood concerned.

Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)

11. This budget must be used to engage young people in positive activities. To allow greater flexibility it has been agreed that the budget can be used to engage young people aged 11-19 (previously 13-19). Young people must be consulted on any planned activity.
12. The LAF Local Area Planning process is demonstrating that young people are being seen as a priority throughout the County. It is therefore suggested that the PAYP funding be directed at addressing the specific issues identified in the LAF's local area plan, using one of the following mechanisms (or a combination of the two)

- **Direct funding of LAF youth priorities identified through the Local Area Plan**
A programme of youth development/activities are commissioned through the LAF that deliver against local priorities for young people. This could include grant funding of activities.
- **Creation of local area youth plans and youth-led forums**
The creation of medium-term dedicated Local Area Youth Plans using existing youth plans and strategies/policies as a baseline and/or the creation of local Youth Forums led by young people from within each local area, engaged in representing young people in the planning of youth recreational programmes and projects and spending budgets as appropriate. The LAF can also commission and provide targeted opportunities to develop young people's skills as community leaders.

13. The Accountable Officer is the Head of Community and Youth Engagement.

"Early Years" grant

14. This must be used to fund Childcare provision – specifically improvements to support inclusive practice for 0-19 year olds.
15. There will be a restricted list of activities to support improvements in order to satisfy the terms of the ring fenced direct government grant. It is anticipated that the LAF will receive applications directly and recommend providers for the Inclusion Grant
16. It is acknowledged that the Early Years grant was not made available to the LAF as anticipated for 2009/10. This funding is currently being reviewed to ensure greater influence by the LAF over its use in 2010/11.
17. The Accountable Officer is the Divisional Manager (Joint Commissioning) Commissioning and Business Improvement

Local Priorities budget

18. The Local Priorities budget will be allocated in line with priorities identified in the LAF's local area planning process to support local community needs and the well-being of the area in line with the following criteria:
- Proposals meeting more than one of the LAF's priorities or addressing a wide community need will be prioritised for funding.
 - Proposals enabling match-funding - whether this is through additional grant funding or parish council support - or with the benefit of additional community support, will be given priority over projects with no additional funding or those with little community support.
 - The Local Priorities budget is not the catch-all to support proposals rejected for funding by the other LAF budgets. However, if there is a proposal that was initially considered for other LAF budgets and it can meet several of the LAF's priorities, the proposal can be considered by the Area Coordinator.
 - The Area Coordinator will also assess potential proposals to see if 'quick wins' can be identified to enable specific projects/issues to be resolved quickly.
19. The Area Coordinator will evaluate proposals and make recommendations in due course to the LAF. LAF members who have particular ideas should raise these directly with the Lead Area Officer or Area Coordinator.

20. The Accountable Officer is the Locality Services Manager.

Transportation Local Improvements Budget

21. This budget is to fund minor transportation improvement schemes. A decision regarding the schemes for 2010/11 will be made at the June meeting of the LAF. £35,292 is available for these schemes in 2010/11

22. The Accountable Officer is the Head of Transportation.

Monitoring and future planning arrangements

23. At the end of the year, officers will prepare a review of the work for Chesham & Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum and later put forward proposals for the allocation of the next year's budgets. Projects which have benefited from Chesham & Chiltern Villages LAF support will be invited to report on progress to the LAF, either as part of the annual review or at some time during the course of the year.

24. Projects benefiting from this funding in 2009-10 are outlined below.

PROJECTS AWARDED FUNDING DURING 2009-10

25. Projects awarded funding during 2009-10 through Amersham LAF include the following:-

Local Priorities budget

26. The following projects were funded during 2009-10 through the LAF's Local Priorities budget.

Pilot for community youth club at Hivings Free church (Pond Park)	£1200
Good Neighbour scheme (Age Concern and ASC)	£4000
Contribution towards marketing costs for PAYP activities	£825
Contribution to Leisure cards for targeted young people	£500
Shed@ThePark - support to purchase some essential musical equipment to enable the Music Therapist to engage with local children, families and the elderly.	£1475
Total	£8000

PAYP funding

27. The following projects were funded during 2009-10 through the LAF's PAYP funding.

Scheme	Value
Chesham & Amersham Air Training Corp various training events	£375
Sound studio sessions at Chiltern View (Childrens Home)	£2000
Midnight ice skating (Chesham Youth Centre)	£456
Chesham Youth Council/Chesham Town Council - anti graffiti in skate park	£1000
Nexus/CDC community project - Community Football	£850
Nexus/CDC community project - moped maintenance	£400
Total	£5081

Transportation delegated budget

28. The following projects were funded during 2009-10 through the LAF's Transportation delegated budget.

Scheme	Value
Prevent water running off from the highway and eroding car parking area in front of the village hall, Two Dells Lane, Ashley Green	£5000
Provision of a salt bin, White Hall, Whelpley Hill, Ashley Green	£475
Provision of a salt bin at junction of with Chartridge Lane, The Warren, Chartridge	£475
Provide lighting between parking area and the sports facility, Moor Road, Chesham	£5000
Refurbishment of verge and kerb, Buckland Common, Cholesbury	£5000
Total	£15950

Early Years grant

29. Although the Early Years grant was not made available to the LAF to enable funding for specific projects in 2009-10 there was sufficient funding to enable all eligible applications to be supported from within the total grant budget and the average allocation to each scheme has been in excess of the £5k devolved to each LAF. The following projects were directly funded in Chesham and Chiltern Villages local community area.

Scheme	Value
Elmtree School HP5 2PA - Alterations + additional nursery toilets. Extension to outside play area	
Stepping Stones P/S HP5 1SS – fixed play equipment	
St Mary's P/S Chesham HP27 9AM - Equipment	
Whitehill Community Pre-School HP5 1AG – Develop outside area	
Total	£23,673