



Report to THE MISSENDENS LOCAL AREA FORUM

Title: LOCAL AREA FORUM BUDGETS
(NON TRANSPORTATION)

To: The Missendens Local Area Forum

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Recommendation

1. The Missendens Local Area Forum is invited **to discuss** bids for non- transportation devolved budgets 2009/10 as described in the report.

Budgets Devolved to LAFs in 2009-10

2. The devolved budgets for 2009-10 are set out in the table below. N.B. It is anticipated that there will be further budget devolution from a wider range of services in subsequent years.

Service area	County-wide total	Missendens LAF
Transportation local improvements	£500,000	£34,000
Positive Activities for Young People	£95,000	£5,000
"Early Years" grant	£95,000	£5,000
Local Priorities budget	£152,000	£8,000
Total	£842,000	£52,000

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

3. All funding must be spent in line with the specific criteria associated with the budget (see below).
4. The funding must be spent within the financial year for which it is allocated.
 - For 2009-10, in consultation with the LAF Chairman, each Head of Service concerned will take a view in November 2009 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 and be allocated to activities that will take place during 2009-10.

- Whilst it is anticipated that this should not be a problem in future years, the same principle will apply.
5. 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.
 6. To allow for the occasional unforeseen opportunity that requires a swift decision, funding may be agreed in between LAF meetings subject to the approval of the LAF Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Positive Activities for Young People

7. This must be used to engage young people (age 13-19) in positive activities (open youth club provision is not acceptable unless there is a structured programme). It can be used for a one-off event, equipment or be given to a voluntary organisation. Young people must be consulted on any planned activity.
8. The LAF can involve its nearest Youth Opportunity Fund panel to get additional money if it wishes. The YOF is young people led so that would also help with consulting young people.
9. The availability of the funding will be promoted via the LAF membership, community newsletters and direct to community organisations over the next couple of months. The Youth Service will evaluate applications and make recommendations to the LAF.
10. Publicity has been undertaken to maximise the chance that LAFs will have the opportunity to fund such activities.
11. The accountable Officer is the Head of Community and Youth Engagement (from June 2009 the Officer designated to manage the Youth Service).

"Early Years" grant

12. This must be used to fund local nursery provision - specifically ICT improvements, disability access, extended flexible provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.
13. Within each category, there are further detailed criteria which must be satisfied. There are also strict criteria for who can qualify for funding which includes registration with BCC Children's Services.
14. The BCC Early Years & Childcare Service will promote the availability of funding, assess all applications for eligibility and evaluate the merit of the application. In the autumn, the Early Years & Childcare Service will evaluate applications and make recommendations to each LAF.

15. The accountable Officer is the Divisional Director, Commissioning and Business Improvement.

Local Priorities Budget

16. This budget can be used for any purpose which supports local community priorities and the well-being of the area identified by the LAF through its local area planning process. Amersham LAF will have to rely upon common priorities from Town/parish plans, Revitalisation group priorities and other forms of consultation until we have established the LAF's own clear priorities for the local area.

17. The Lead Area Officer and Area Co-ordinator will evaluate proposals and make recommendations in due course for how this budget may be spent in 2009-10. LAF members who have particular ideas should raise these directly with the Lead Area Officer or Area Co-ordinator.

18. The accountable Officer is the Locality Services Manager.

Monitoring and future planning arrangements

19. At the end of the year, officers will prepare a review of the work for Amersham Local Area Forum and put forward proposals for the allocation of the next year's budgets. Projects which have benefited from Amersham 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.

- Report ends -