

Executive – 22 July 2010

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY LOCALITY FUND

Report of Head of Housing and Community Delivery

Statutory Powers: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 19 and Local Government Act 2000, Part 1, Local Government Act 1972, Section 101.

Financial Implications: A Sustainable Community Locality Budget of £1,000 per Member to spend within their local Wards on projects that comply with the agreed grant criteria has been established.

Purpose

To provide an update to the Executive on projects funded in 2009/10 through the Sustainable Community Locality Fund. The Executive received a report in March 2009 which established the procedures for the Sustainable Community Locality Fund. This report is to inform Councillors on how the locality budget has been allocated for 2009/10. The aim of the locality budget is to strengthen the Council's commitment to supporting communities in achieving its overall aim 'to improve the well-being of the people of the South Hams' whilst contributing to Council priorities and commitments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive resolves to review the projects that have benefited from Sustainable Community Locality funding in 2009/10 and have been funded so far for 2010/2011, in accordance with Minute E111/08(d).

Background

1. In 2009 a locality budget was established, enabling each Member to support projects and activities that will, in the judgement of each individual Member, meet a local priority. The funding available is designed to act as a small catalyst to attract contributions from other agencies, or external grants, or to contribute to locally raised income. The operation of the Sustainable Community Locality Fund is summarised in the Executive's March 2009 report. Resolution E111/08 (d) required "That Members be in receipt of an annual report from the Head of Community Regeneration outlining how the locality fund has been used in each ward". The intention was to review the initiative to ensure that it continues to achieve objectives.

Projects funded

2. Appendix A details all projects which have benefited from the Sustainable Community Locality Fund. It should be noted that some Members may not have allocated all their funding in any one year as they may be aware of a project which may require a larger cumulative contribution in subsequent years. Alternatively there may have been insufficient local projects complying with the fund criteria which emerged in any one particular year.

Risk Assessment

The following are the significant risks and opportunities identified:

Opportunity	Issues / Obstacles	Benefits
<p>Effectiveness of a locality budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enables Members to engage in local community initiatives.• Potentially strengthens the community leadership role.	<p>Ensure probity issues managed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure administrative burden is minimised while complying with audit requirements• Given the small value of grants available, should a project fail the clawing back of funds are unlikely to be cost-effective• Annual review of the use of the fund as required by the Executive. <p>Future budget pressure if funding levels subsequently prove to be insufficient.</p>	<p>Some community projects requiring greater financial support could be funded from loans or other external grants.</p>

Conclusion

3. A locality budget helps to provide each Member with the ability to support projects and activities that meet a local priority. This in turn enables Members to engage in local community initiatives and potentially strengthens the community leadership role.

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Executive
22 July 2010

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Background Documents:

None