

To: Cabinet – 22 May 2006

By: Nick Chard, Cabinet Member – Finance
Lynda McMullan - Director of Finance

Subject: **LOCAL SCHEMES GRANT 2006/07**

Summary

This report sets out the allocations and process for awarding monies under the Local Scheme Grant 2006-07, and the role which Local Boards will have in recommending allocations for their respective areas.

BUDGET APPROVALS FOR 2006-07

- 1 In the approved Revenue Budget for 2006/07 (p117) there is provision within the Finance Portfolio of £400,000 for Local Schemes as recommended by Local Boards. Table 1 shows the district by district allocation of this amount relating to Local Area Priorities. Both Local Schemes Grants and Small Community Capital Grants are one-off.
- 2 The two grant schemes may be awarded on a complimentary basis, but are not interchangeable.
- 3 The objectives of the grants will be as follows:
 - ◆ Support KCC's "Towards 2010" strategy and/or
 - ◆ Underpin the "Vision for Kent" and Public Service Agreement and/or
 - ◆ Enhance KCC's Supporting Independence Programme.
- 4 The 12 Local Boards have a key role in considering grant applications, and making recommendations to Cabinet Members for decisions on award of both Local Schemes Grant (LSG) and Small Community Capital Grant (SCCG). When considering proposals for funding from LSG, Local Boards must assess their suitability in accordance with the criteria set out in appendix 1. The criteria for SCCG remain as agreed by Cabinet and County Council in 2003/04. .
- 5 It is suggested that bids for both LSG and SCCG are brought forward together for consideration at meetings of the Local Boards, and that recommendations are made at these meetings. Formal decisions by Cabinet Members will follow.
- 6 Local Board Chairmen will carry out their consultation with Local Board Members on the allocation of LSG and SCCG at a meeting of the Local Board Members in order to ensure that a clear audit trail exists for each decision. The discussion and subsequent decisions are to be included in the minutes of the meeting.

- 7 Local Board Chairmen will be encouraged to consider the allocation of LSG and
SCCG as early in the financial year as possible.
- 8 For LSG awards, it is recommended that these are limited to one formal Member
decision during the year, and for SCCG there are no more than two decisions.
- 9 Lists of awards will be recorded in Member Information Bulletins and also in
minutes and annual reports to local boards. A running total of awards will also be
posted on the Local Boards' website.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet Members are asked:-

- (1) To note the 2006/07 allocations of Local Schemes Grant and Small
Community Capital Grant, and
- (2) To agree the processes for Local Boards to recommend awards of
 1. LSG for Decision by the Cabinet Member for Finance and
 2. SCCG for Decision by the Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance ,
and the audit trails which accompany these.

TABLE 1

**LOCAL SCHEMES GRANT AND SMALL COMMUNITY CAPITAL GRANTS
2006-07**

DISTRICT	Local Schemes Grant (£400k Revenue) <i>Finance Portfolio</i> <i>note#1</i> £000s	Small Community Capital Grant (£500k Capital) <i>Policy and Performance Portfolio</i> <i>note#2</i> £000s
Ashford	20.6	40.3
Canterbury	60.5	52.5
Dartford	7.5	31.7
Dover	58.6	38.7
Gravesham	4.6	34.6
Maidstone	12.2	52.5
Sevenoaks	5.9	39.9
Shepway	56.8	36.8
Swale	63.6	47.0
Thanet	66.6	47.1
Tonbridge & Malling	13.9	40.7
Tunbridge Wells	29.2	38.2
Total	400.0	500.0

Note #1: Sum directly proportional to each District Council's expected amount of Council Tax income due from Second Homes in 2006-07.

Note #2: Sum directly proportional to population within the district (mid-2006 data as used by the Government in the 2006-07 budget settlement).

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL BOARDS: LOCAL SCHEME GRANTS

These guidelines set out the framework and criteria for assessing the suitability of proposals for allocating grants from Local Schemes money.

Eligibility:

- ◆ Grants will only be given to organisations that are 'properly constituted'. This includes organisations such as parish and town councils, district councils and KCC, voluntary and community groups, churches, societies and charities. Organisations will be required to provide copies of latest accounts, or minutes of latest AGM, or Charity Commission registration number with application as evidence.
- ◆ The funding is one-off with no on-going revenue or capital commitments.
- ◆ All expenditure must be in line with KCC's Constitution, Financial Regulations and related guidelines – funding should not simply replace funding from another source.
- ◆ The money can be spent on revenue or minor capital items.

Decision-making criteria:

Priority will be given to projects that:

- ◆ Support KCC's "Towards 2010" strategy and/or
- ◆ Underpin the "Vision for Kent" and Public Service Agreement and/or
- ◆ Enhance KCC's Supporting Independence Programme.

Payment of Grant:

- ◆ Funding will normally be released to a bank account by BACS transfer and only in exceptional circumstances in the form of a cheque.
- ◆ Recipients of funding will be required to provide written evidence that the expenditure has been incurred for the purpose it was provided and to give details of the benefits achieved.
- ◆ If, for any reason, the purpose for which the funding is provided is not fulfilled, the grant will be repayable to KCC by the receiving organisation.

Other Key Points of Framework:

- ◆ The timing of expenditure decisions and any associated local publicity must comply with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity and have specific regard to the provisions relating to the conduct in the run up period to local elections.
- ◆ In an election year, no commitment or expenditure will be made within the financial year until after the annual meeting of the County Council immediately following the election.
- ◆ Members must have regard to the Code of Member Conduct when proposing any expenditure and must specifically comply with any requirements relating to the declaration of personal or prejudicial interests.
- ◆ Due regard will be had to any officer advice on the legality of proposed expenditure. In this respect the final arbiters are the County Secretary and the Director of Finance.
- ◆ All payments must be dealt with through the Council's normal authorisation and payments processes.

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