

To: Nick Chard, Cabinet Member for Finance

From: Lynda McMullan, Director of Finance

Date: October 2007

Allocation of Second Homes Monies – Thanet 2005-06

1. The new powers contained in the Local Government Act 2003 allowed billing authorities to reduce the Council Tax discount applicable to “Second Homes” from 50% to 10% with effect from 2004-05. The majority of the additional income collected by Kent District Councils as a result of these powers accrues to KCC.
2. Following written consultation with Local Board Members, proposals for the use of the 2005-06 allocation for the Thanet area have come forward from the Local Board Chairman as detailed in appendix A attached to this report.
3. Attached at appendix B to this report are guidelines which are used by Local Board Chairmen in assessing the suitability of proposals for funding from these second homes monies.

Recommendation

- (1) It is recommended that you consider and, if thought fit, confirm the proposed allocation of these resources to the projects set out in Appendix A, taking account of the guidelines set out in Appendix B to this report.

Lynda McMullan
Director of Finance

Bids for Thanet Second Homes Monies

Bid	Amount
	£
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>▪ Investment in improving the appearance of some external Council operated 'off street' car parks.</p> <p>This application has been made by Cllr Bill Hayton and the request is for funds previously allocated under Decision No. 06/00764 to install an interactive sign on the A299 Thanet Way, to be transferred to this project. The reason for the request for change in use is that upon investigations undertaken into the viability of providing the new interactive sign it was found that the project would exceed the budget by approximately £22k. In addition to this KCC have aspirations to implement an Urban Traffic Management Control in Thanet over the next 3 to 5 years; Cllr Hayton therefore believes the funds would be better used elsewhere.</p> 	30,000
TOTAL	30,000

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL BOARDS: SECOND HOMES FUNDS

These guidelines set out the framework and criteria for assessing the suitability of proposals for allocating grants from second homes 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 "Next Four Years" 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 Strategic Director (Resources).
- ◆ All payments must be dealt with through the Council's normal authorisation and payments processes.