



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
EPSOM & EWELL
MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS**

31st JULY 2006

KEY ISSUE

To consider new proposals for expenditure from the Members' Allocations budget.

SUMMARY

This report sets out new schemes suggested by Members for funding from the Members' Allocations budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee approves the proposed expenditure from the Members' Allocations budget.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Each Member of the County Council has been allocated a budget of **£11,000** in 2006/07 to be spent in accordance with his/her wishes on schemes and projects, which promote social, environmental or economic well-being. Each Member's proposal will require the approval of the Local Committee.
- 1.2 The Committee has also been allocated a capital grant of **£35,000**, this funding requires the agreement of the whole Local Committee and can only be spent on capital projects and schemes.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The People's Theatre Company
Jean Smith proposes to contribute **£1,560** towards the People's Theatre Company (PtC). The People's Theatre Company are a registered charity with a brief to provide access to quality theatre for local communities and an induction into drama for young people. The PtC have successfully been running a drama group for children aged 5 – 11 out of Bourne Hall for the last 18 months. The group operates for 39 weeks a year concurrently with the academic year. The group runs weekly hour and half sessions and stages approximately 3 performances a year. The group aims to build children's confidence among their peers and in front of an audience. It also provides a friendly atmosphere for children to nurture their creative skills and showcase their artistic skills. The most significant cost that the group incurs is that of the hire of the hall which is £1,560 per year. The total cost of running the project for the 39 weeks is £2,557.50 and the income from the fees charged per child per session can range from £2,028 to £2,535. From these figures the PtC can either make a small profit or a slightly larger loss.
- 2.2 Stamford Green Primary School
Colin Taylor proposes to contribute **£3,932** towards installing interactive whiteboards in every classroom at Stamford Green Primary School. The total cost of the project is £19,160. The school has requested that Colin Taylor contribute 20% of the total cost with the remaining funding being found from the schools delegated budget. The school aims to have all of the whiteboards installed by September 2006.

2.3 Family Links – The Nurturing Project

As part of the self reliance work in Court and Ruxley wards Family Links – The Nurturing Programme has been identified as a ‘promising approach’ and aims to improve children’s emotional literacy. This scheme is strongly supported both by the three primary schools who would implement the programme, (Riverview and Epsom Primary Schools and West Ewell Infant School) and by the local community. The project has a major positive impact on self esteem and self awareness in both children and adults and can result in improved behaviour in school, reduced risk of future offending, drug-taking, unwanted pregnancy, improved attainment in school, reduced risk of school exclusion, improved family relationships and improved mental health in both children and adults. Each school will receive full staff training from the Family Links Team as well as receiving the necessary resources to implement the nurturing project across the whole school. It will also open up the possibility of accessing and implementing the parenting course that accompanies the project. The schools, the pupils and parents will directly benefit and it will have ‘knock on’ benefits for secondary schools in the area.

The total cost of running the project is £4,950 per school, which includes the costs of staff training, materials for schools, children’s books and the training and setting up of 2 parent groups. The total cost of the project is **£14,850**.

3. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The spending proposals put forward for this meeting have been assessed against the County standards for appropriateness and value for money and it is recommended that they should be approved.

Responsible Officer:

Chris White
Area Director
01372 832 539

Contact Officer:

Kirsty Light
Local Committee & Partnership Officer
020 8541 7062