



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

9th OCTOBER 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 Epsom & Ewell Citizens Advice Bureau

The Epsom & Ewell Citizens Advice Bureau has submitted a bid for **£4,000** to help cover a funding gap for the Epsom & Ewell Mental Health Outreach Service that they host. The Mental Health Outreach Service has been in operation since 1996. The service's priorities are to enable adults with mental health problems to have better chances in life by receiving advice and support from specialist advisers and by gaining entitlements and benefits to which they might not otherwise have access. The service employs one full time and one part time member of staff. In the last three years the monetary gains for the clients seen by the service is in excess of £333,000. The service has 230 clients with a total of 3,500 client contacts since August 2003. In 2003 the CAB made a successful bid to the Lottery and received a three year grant of £120,000. This grant finished on 10th August 2006. The CAB submitted a Lottery bid in May 2006 and heard in August 2006 that they had been successful. The new grant is for £151,645 over three years. This new funding cannot be drawn on until 1st October 2006. This left the service with a seven week funding gap of approximately £5,000. The CAB have fund-raised £1,000, leaving £4,000 to be found.

2.2 Epsom & Ewell High School

Jan Mason proposes to contribute **£1,100** towards Epsom & Ewell High School, to enable the school to improve registration for 6th formers, to provide a recognition system for those students who are neither at the top or bottom of the spectrum of pupils and to improve the fitness areas in the PE department. The above measures will assist in improving school attainment through positive reinforcement. The total cost of the project is £7,000, the remaining £5,900 will be found from school funds.

2.3 Removal of Japanese Knotweed from the Hogsmill River

Jan Mason proposes to contribute **£2,500** towards the removal of Japanese knotweed from the Hogsmill river. The section of the river where the Japanese knotweed will be removed from is between south of the Ewell By-Pass and Chessington Road. The removal of the Japanese knotweed is essential preliminary work to enable the planned significant enhancement of the Bonesgate stream corridor to go ahead. The work will be completed by March 2007. The total cost of the project is £5,460, and the balance of the funding will be met by Surrey County Council.

2.4 Ruxley Gymnastics Club

Jan Mason proposes to contribute **£500** towards the purchase of 2 safety mats for Ruxley Gymnastics Club. The club has recently purchased a new piece of equipment called an 'airtrack' which requires a safety mat at either end of it.

2.5 Stephen Woods Centre

Jan Mason proposes to contribute **£1,000** towards new flooring at the Stephen Woods Centre. The Stephen Woods Centre re-launched itself earlier this year and has been running a very successful youth club on a Thursday evening and is looking to expand the types of activities it offers, including a mother & toddler group, a youth club for children aged 9-11 as well becoming the home for construction bus project. It was the local community that led the call for the re-launch of the centre, strongly backed by the statutory authorities locally like the Police. By improving the environment of the centre the trustees hope to make the building more attractive to letting out which will enable the building to become as self sufficient as possible.

3.0 £35k CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATION

3.1 Epsom Common Association

Epsom Common Association has submitted a bid for **£8,000** towards the cost of purchasing a Rough Terrain Vehicle. The vehicle would be used to transport volunteers' tools and equipment around Epsom Common in connection with monthly two-day conservation tasks and charcoal firings. The total cost of the project is £14,000, which includes a vehicle, training of up to 5 named drivers and insurance. The freehold of the vehicle and the responsibility for annual maintenance and safety checks will be the responsibility of Epsom Common Association. The rest of the funding will be found from Epsom Common Association and bids are also being made to 02 environmental awards and Awards for All which is a lottery scheme.

4. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 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.

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