



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
Epsom and Ewell**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
EPSOM & EWELL
MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS
13 JULY 2009**

KEY ISSUE

To consider new proposals for expenditure from the Members' Allocations budget 2009/10.

SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked:

1. To agree to adopt the criteria for the use of Member's Funds as set out in Appendix 1.
2. To agree to adopt a process, as set out in Appendix 1 (para. 2), for agreeing small funding allocations (up to £1,000) outside of formal committee meetings, with approval delegated to the Area Director in consultation with members.
3. To approve the proposed expenditure from the Members' Allocations budget.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Each Member of the County Council has been allocated a budget of **£8,250** in 2009/10 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 may only be used for capital projects and schemes. It will be allocated equally on a Division basis of £7,000 each, subject to agreement by the whole of the Local Committee.

2. MEMBERS' REVENUE ALLOCATION

- 2.1 **EPSOM MENTAL HEALTH WEEK - "CRACKING UP"**
 This production was staged at various locations in the county last year, enjoying capacity audiences and successfully raising awareness of mental health issues and challenging stigma surrounding them. It also encouraged sufferers and their families to seek help from local services. As part of Epsom Mental Health Week (4-10 October 2009), another performance is to be held at Epsom Playhouse. This is only the second year that Epsom Mental Health Week has run and the organisers are therefore still reliant on ad hoc funding for some of their projects. However, it is hoped that this year will see the Week firmly established with funding for future years negotiated through various organisations and fund-raising initiatives. The application requests contributory funding from Member Allocations to help the initiative to become established. It will benefit people from all parts of the Epsom and Ewell area.

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| Member proposing | Chris Frost, Colin Taylor |
| Project Cost | £ 2,080 |
| Amount Requested | £ 1,000 |

- 2.2 **LOCAL COMMITTEE PUBLICITY – NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING**
 To consider funding for an advertisement to appear in the Epsom Guardian for the next twelve months, one for each of the 4 formal Local Committee meetings to be held in September and December 2009, March and June 2010.

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| Members | Chris Frost, Eber Kington, Jan Mason, Colin Taylor, David Wood |
| Project Cost | £ 1,050 |
| Amount Requested | £ 1,050 |

3 PROPOSALS AGAINST CAPITAL GRANT

- 3.1 **LAND ROVER APPEAL – LOWER MOLE COUNTRYSIDE TRUST**
 The Lower Mole Countryside Management Project runs two vehicles to service the needs of its practical work programme for volunteers from the local community. The Ford Transit Minibus was replaced in 2007 with assistance from a wide range of organisations, including a contribution from Member Allocations. The second vehicle is a 1997 Land Rover which is essential for towing the trailer and transporting bulky materials and heavy work tools to the work sites, which are often well away from roads and good tracks. To lease a new Land Rover over a 10 year period would cost around £75,000, but the purchase price would be significantly less, at around £28,000. A similar application is to be submitted to the Local Committees in Elmbridge and Mole Valley, as well as other trust/foundations/funding organisations. It is anticipated that the funding would be required before March 2010.

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| Project Cost | £ 28,000 |
| Amount Requested | £ 5,000 |

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is no commitment, as yet, against the 2009/10 budgets for Members' individual allocations of £8,250 each or the Capital Grant of £7,000 per Member.

5 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The contributions proposed would benefit a wide range of adults and children in Epsom and Ewell, some of whom may have disabilities.

6 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 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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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Version No. 1 Date: 28 June 2009 Time:

Initials: MAB/ljt

No of annexes: 1

CRITERIA FOR USE OF FUNDS

1. MEMBER'S ALLOCATIONS

- a) Support for any one project will not normally exceed £10,000.
- b) Any proposal to be considered by Committee must be proposed by at least one Member who is willing to provide at least some financial support to the project. However, Members whose funds are totally committed may still put proposals forward for support by the Committee.
- c) The funds will not be used to cover on-going revenue costs – expenditure must be of a one-off nature or serve as “pump-priming”.
- d) Contributions will not normally be made to cover funding gaps arising from budget reduction decisions.
- e) Priority will be given to proposals attracting an element of match funding.
- e) Proposals will be considered from SCC services, other statutory bodies and voluntary organisations.
- f) The application should be for a future project, not a retrospective request.

2. FUNDING PAID UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The decision to pay funding of not more than £1,000 can be delegated to the Area Director, in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Committee. Funding paid under delegated authority is subject to the criteria laid down in paragraph 1 above, and the following additional criteria:

- a) the application must have been endorsed by the appropriate local Member
- b) the application should be for a maximum of £1,000
- c) applications from private clubs or other membership organisations must clearly demonstrate the wider community benefit of the project
- d) projects must not contravene any of the Council's agreed policies or priorities
- e) the application should not be to cover ongoing revenue costs.

3. COMMITTEE CAPITAL ALLOCATION

The balance of the £35,000 initially allocated to support capital projects through voluntary organisations will be used for any suitable project promoting well-being in Epsom and Ewell, and agreed by the Committee. The £35,000 will be allocated equally on a Division basis of £7,000 each, subject to agreement by the whole of the Local Committee.

Allocations against the capital allocation must be a minimum of £1,000.

The following is a definition for “capital” in these circumstances:

- **It must be applied to physical assets with a life of more than one year;**
- **Such assets include land, buildings, property refurbishments, vehicles, plant, major items of equipment; etc**
- **It must not be applied to meet staffing costs or other routine running costs.**

It is proposed that the following criteria should apply to this fund:

- a) Any proposal to be considered by Committee must be put forward by at least one Member.
- b) Priority will be given to proposals attracting an element of match funding.
- c) Proposals must be of a local nature and be for the benefit of the people of Epsom and Ewell.