



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL  
COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE  
11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2005**

**MEMBERS' FUNDS**

**KEY ISSUE:**

To agree the criteria and process for the use of Members' Funds and make decisions on funding proposals.

**SUMMARY:**

The report outlines the proposed criteria and process for the use of Members' Funds and makes recommendations on a number of proposals.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee is asked:

1. To agree to the criteria adopted for the 2005/06 financial year for the use of Member's Funds as set out at Appendix 1.
2. To agree that the Area Director, in consultation with the Chairman and relevant Divisional Member, be authorised to approve the use of an individual Member's allocation for projects up to £750 which

will be reported for information at the next Local Committee meeting.

3. To agree a contribution of £2,325 to finance a Parents/Carers Support group, funding to be drawn from the 2004/05 £1,895 underspend with a balance of £430 drawn equally from the allocations to individual Members.
4. To agree a contribution of £1,000 to finance a Pre-school preventative project, funding to be drawn equally from the allocations to individual Members.
5. To agree a contribution of £400 for the Community Speedwatch kits to be drawn equally from the allocations to individual Members.
6. To agree a contribution of £200 for the Spelthorne Student Council visit to Melun to be drawn equally from the allocations to individual Members.
7. To agree a contribution of £4,340 towards the Ashford Family Centre North East Surrey Family Support pilot project and that the SCC Local Committees for Epsom and Ewell and Elmbridge each be asked to contribute the same amount.
8. To agree a contribution of £350 to Laleham Methodist Church for community events on the Royal Estate to be drawn equally from the allocations to individual Members.
9. To agree the use of the unspent funds previously allocated to Echelford School for a Garden project for use towards the purchase of a greenhouse.
10. To agree to underwrite the costs of the Sunbury and Shepperton Arts Festival up to £500
11. To agree an additional contribution of £1,000 to Echelford School towards the purchase of a greenhouse to be drawn from the capital allocation.
12. To agree a contribution of £2,000 to Kingscroft Junior School for four pergolas to be drawn from the capital allocation.
13. To agree a contribution of £2,000 for items for the Youth Work Project at Christ Church, Staines to be drawn from the capital allocation
14. To agree a contribution of £2,000 for equipment for the Millennium After School Club to be drawn from the capital allocation
15. To agree a contribution of £3,500 to Laleham Church of England Primary School towards the provision of a disabled toilet from the capital allocation.
16. To agree a contribution of £650 to Staines Brass Band for a concert bass drum from the capital allocation.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The budget for 2005/06 made the following funds available:

### Member's Revenue Allocation

	Balance Remaining £
Mrs Saliagopoulos	11,500
Ms Turner	11,500
Mr Agarwal	11,500
Mr Beardsmore	11,500
Mr Burrell	11,500
Mrs Coleman	11,500
Mr Davies	11,500

**Total £ 80,500**

### Committee Capital Allocation

**Total £ 35,000**

- 1.2 The criteria to be applied to the use of funds in 2004/05, as amended by the Committee on 6 December 2004, are attached as Appendix 1. It is recommended that these criteria continue to be used for 2005/06.
- 1.3 At the Local Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> April it was agreed that £1,099 of the capital allocation be used for the purchase of a coffee machine at Shepperton Library bringing the total amount of the capital allocation to **£33,901**.
- 1.4 As a result of minor differences between the estimated costs of three minor highways schemes, which were used for successful bids for Members Revenue funding in 2003/04, and the final costs of the schemes that were completed in 2004/05, an underspend totalling £1895.67 has been generated. The "sources" of this underspend is as follows:

Mr Beardsmore	- £399.82
Mr Burrell	- £752.65
Local Committee (equal contributions)	- £743.20

It is recommended that, given the collaborative funding approach adopted at the Committee meeting in March 2005 to commit all known available funds, that all the above underspend be allocated by the Committee on a shared basis and that these funds be utilised before commitment from the 2005/06 budget is made.

## **2.0 MEMBER'S REVENUE ALLOCATION**

Two projects have been proposed within the Preventative Strategy described in the Children's Services Report to the Local Committee in March 2005. The Strategy aims to move resources from financing expensive "out of County" placements to more cost effective initiatives at a local level. This shift of resources will happen gradually within the mainstream budget and these projects aim to pilot work that ultimately will be incorporated into the Children's Services revenue budget.

### **2.1 Parents/Carers Support Group (Mrs Saliagopoulos as Chairman)**

Family Support Workers are currently undertaking school/family liaison work with children referred by primary schools who are at risk of exclusion. Problems are generated by various family circumstances. There are also difficulties for some parents/carers in managing some of the presenting behavioural problems of some of these children. The Support Workers wish to bring selected parents/carers together in a group setting to develop mutual support networks and a sharing of strategies that have worked.

Such a group would generate costs in addition to the salary costs of the Family Support Workers. These costs would include crèche workers and equipment, premises hire, transport and refreshments and total **£2,325** for 3 groups each running for 10 weeks. It is recommended that the underspend of £1,895 referred to in para 1.4 above be used to support this project with the balance of £430 drawn equally from the Revenue allocation to each Member. This request was deferred from the last Local Committee meeting and in the meantime approval has been given to sustain this project through the SCC Children's Services Preventative Strategy budget for year 2 subject to this Committee approving this pump priming request for year 1.

### **2.2 Pre-school preventative provision (Mrs Saliagopoulos as Chairman)**

SCC Early Years and Childcare Service, in collaboration with Health Visitors and the Social Work Team, have been able to identify young children aged 2.5 – 3.0 years who they predict will have great difficulty in successfully starting their nursery education. In order to reduce the likelihood of this early negative experience of education, a project is proposed to provide free places children in a pre-school playgroup for a period of 6 months immediately preceding their commencement of nursery education. A free place would be offered once a week for up to 2 terms to a child from each of the following areas: Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Shepperton and Ashford. Assessment would be by a panel representing Health, Social Services and Early Years and the Surrey assessment Framework would be used for guidance. Support would only be offered to children falling outside the statutory category (i.e. not

on the “at risk” register). Parents /carers would choose the pre-school playgroup they wished to use, payment would be made directly to the pre-school provider and attendance would be closely monitored.

The project aims

- To provide children with the opportunity to develop their social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional abilities.
- To prevent family breakdown by providing respite for parents and carers.
- To prevent children going into care.

The project aims to provide a total of 10 places over a one year period at a total cost of **£1,000**. It is recommended that this is drawn equally from the Revenue allocation to each Member. The request for funding for this project was deferred from the last Local Committee meeting and as a result of the project receiving funding from another source the request to the Committee now is if £1,000 and not £2,000 as stated in the April Local Committee report.

- 2.3 The following new requests for funding have been received since the new Local Committee was formed. The name of the Divisional Member or Member proposing the scheme is in brackets and where the project would benefit Spelthorne residents Borough wide these have been proposed by the Chairman. Some requests are for funding below the proposed £750 for delegated authority but in the absence of this authority at this time all applications for funding have to be considered by the Committee.
- 2.4 **Surrey Police -Community Speedwatch- £400 (Mr Davies)**  
Proposed purchase of two kits comprising two radar guns, four reflective jackets and four signs to enable more local residents acting as volunteers and trained by Surrey Police to check speed of vehicles.
- 2.5 **Spelthorne Student Council visit to Melun- £200 (Mr Burrell)**  
Some of the Borough’s young people will be visiting Melun in France from 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August as part of the Youth Exchange to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning. Funding for the trip is through the young people’s own contribution of £150 each and a grant from Youth Connect International. The visit is being co-ordinated through the SCC Youth Worker at Shepperton Youth Centre. There will be a return trip for French young people to Spelthorne next year. The £200 would be used to pay for the increased travel costs to France as the Eurostar costs are now higher than when the application for the Youth Connect Grant was submitted.
- 2.6 **Family Support Proposal – Ashford Family Centre- £4340 (Mrs Saliagopoulos as Chairman)**  
The Manager at Ashford Family Centre is setting up a Family Support Service project with the aim of preventing children between 0 –11 years from becoming accommodated by SCC. The service is expected to deal

with children on fixed term exclusion; children experiencing poor parenting; children showing challenging behaviour; children isolated as a result of alcohol and drug issues, domestic violence and mental health; and teenage parents. Referrals will come from the Assessment Team, Family Centres, Children's team and Children with Disabilities Team. This is a pilot project and the areas for the pilot will be the Boroughs of Spelthorne, Epsom and Ewell and Elmbridge. The service will offer an intensive 6 – 8 week programme for both adults and children in a family and is specifically set up to respond quickly. The Project is multi agency with input from SCC services, Community and Mental Health Services, Connexions and the health service. The total cost is £131,000 funded from various sources. The Local Committees for Spelthorne, Epsom and Ewell and Elmbridge are being asked to contribute to the 0.5fte domestic violence support worker element of the project which will be £13,000 which if shared by the three Local Committees would be £4340 each.

**2.7 Royal Estate Community Activities for Triple F Club – Laleham Methodist Church- £350 (Ms Turner)**

Proposed purchase of large interactive games adults can use such as Connect, Get Knotted and Twister and hire of bouncy castle for children for community events during the summer. Games can also be used by the young people meeting at the Youth Club on the Royal Estate.

**2.8 Echelford School – Gardening Project – Change of use of previously approved funding – (Mrs Coleman)**

The Local Committee previously approved funding in the sum of £1500 for the school's gardening project. In the event only £400 has been spent as other items have been provided by alternative means. The agreement is that any unspent monies should be returned to the Local Committee, however, the school have asked if the balance of monies remaining can be used instead towards the cost of a greenhouse which if provided would extend the gardening project and the curriculum opportunities for the school children.

**2.9 Sunbury and Shepperton Arts Festival- Underwriting costs up to £500 (Mrs Saliagopoulos as Chairman)**

Last year the Local Committee agreed to underwrite the costs of the Festival up to £500 although in the event it broke even and the Committee's funds were not needed. The Festival organisers have again approached the Local Committee with the same request that Members agree to underwrite the costs up to £500 for this year's event.

**3.00 Capital Allocation**

**3.1 Echelford School – Purchase of Greenhouse - £1,000 (Mrs Coleman)**

In addition to the request in paragraph 2.8 the school have asked for an additional £1,000 towards the total cost of the greenhouse

which is estimated to be £2,400. The school hope that the remaining cost is funded through voluntary contributions. Parents voluntarily contribute their time to the garden facility at the school and it is believed that the project brings additional learning opportunities for children.

### **3.2 Kings Croft Junior School – Four Pergolas- £2,000 (Mrs Saliagopoulos)**

The Local Committee has previously funded play trails in the grounds of the school. Given the large scale of the school grounds the school would like to have some pergolas to give the children some shaded areas. Currently there is nowhere for the children to eat or work outside during the hot weather. The school would like to purchase four pergolas at £500, each which would be spaced at intervals in their grounds which would be of real benefit to the children and staff.

### **3.3 Youth Work Project – Christ Church, Staines- £2,000 (Mr. Burrell/Ms Turner)**

Proposal to provide coffee machine, sound equipment and comfortable sofas for the new facility due to commence in October in the Hall at Christ Church, Staines. The project will be managed by Christ Church with input from East2West Youth Organisation, E2West Youth Worker from the Royal Estate and The Matthew Arnold School and will provide a drop in/youth facility for young people from the school, Royal Estate or surrounding area from 3pm – 6pm Monday to Friday.

### **3.4 Millennium After School Club- £2,000 (Mrs Saliagopoulos as Chairman)**

The Club based at Manor Mead School in Shepperton has been awarded a grant of £25,000 from Children in Need over three years to fund the revenue costs to expand the club by another day and from September will be operating on a Monday and Thursday. The Club is in need of some equipment which would comprise special bean bags for children to spend out of their wheel chairs and during circle time to aid interaction; sensory toys which can be operated from the tray on a wheel chair; toys for physically able children like step walkers; musical instruments; parachutes and sensory balls. The Club is asking the Local Committee for £2,000 to purchase this equipment.

### **3.5 Laleham Cof E Primary School – Disabled Toilet - £3,000 (Ms Turner)**

The Local Committee previously contributed £5,000 towards equipment for the new community and school netball facilities at the school. To enhance the facility the school wish to provide a disabled toilet and hand basin in a suitable structure in the grounds of the school which is estimated to cost £8,000 and has asked for a contribution of £3,000 from the Local Committee towards this which would have to be subject to any necessary planning approvals..

### **3.6 Staines Brass Band - £650 (Mrs Saliagopoulos)**

The Brass Band is in need of replacing some of its equipment and has requested £650 to purchase a concert bass drum.

#### **4.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The contributions proposed will benefit a wide range of adults and children in Spelthorne, some of whom may have disabilities.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Not including the use of the £1895.67 underspend from previous financial years the total sum requested from Members' Funds is £6720.  
If all Members were minded to support all requests the sum of £960 would be drawn from each Members' allocation leaving £10,540 per Member, a total of £73,780.
- 5.2 Requests for funding which can be drawn from the capital allocation total £11,150 which if all approved would bring the remaining sum to £22,751.

#### **6.0 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 These proposals meet the criteria agreed by the Committee for financial support.

**Report by: Elaine Bennett. Local Committee and Partnership Officer - Spelthorne**

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Budget Report to Council 8 Feb 2005



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **CRITERIA FOR USE OF FUNDS**

The following criteria, as amended on 6 December 2004, will be applied to the use of these funds for the remainder of the 2004-05 financial year.

#### **MEMBER'S REVENUE ALLOCATION**

- Support for any one project will not normally exceed £10,000.
- 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.
- The funds will not be used to cover revenue costs – expenditure must be of a one-off nature or serve as “pump-priming”.
- Contributions will not normally be made to cover funding gaps arising from budget reduction decisions.
- Priority will be given to proposals attracting an element of match funding.
- Proposals will be considered from SCC services, other statutory bodies and voluntary organisations.

#### **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 Spelthorne and agreed by the Committee. These funds are not allocated to individual Members but are to allocated by Committee decision.

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

Capital expenditure is defined as the acquisition, construction, enhancement or replacement of an asset. An asset can be land & buildings, vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment or infrastructure. In order for an asset to be capitalised it should yield benefits for a period of more than one year.

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

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