



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

MEMBERS' FUNDS

29 September 2008

KEY ISSUE

To make decisions on funding proposals.

SUMMARY

The report makes recommendations on a number of proposals.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked:

1. To note change of use of funding for Echelford School (paragraph 2.1).
2. To note funding returned by East 2 West organisation (paragraph 2.2).
3. To note funding approved under delegated authority (paragraph 2.3-2.6).
4. To consider an application for funding of up to £3500 for Ashford Rotary Club for a replacement Christmas Float.
5. To consider an application for funding of £5000 from Surrey Fire & Rescue Service towards the costs of the Safe Drive stay Alive project.
6. To consider an application for funding of £2971.20 towards the Fishing for Fun project

7. To consider an application for funding of £1600 to re-site lamp posts in Saxon Road.
8. To consider an application of £400 towards a computer and printer for the MS Society to be funded from Mr Agarwal's allocation.
9. To consider an application for funding of £5000 from Spelthorne Borough Council to enhance the path on Shortwood South Staines.
10. To consider an application for funding of £4306.11 for refurbishments for the Staines Contact Centre, to be funded from the capital allocation.
11. To consider an application for funding of £1000 from Surrey Fire & Rescue Service for equipment for the Youth Engagement Scheme project, to be funded from the capital allocation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The budget for 2008/09 made the following funds available - £11,000 per Member and £35,000 capital allocation. These figures show the amounts still available taking account of any returned funding.

Member's Revenue Allocation

	Balance Remaining £
Mr Agarwal	18653
Mr Beardsmore	10694
Mr Burrell	9726
Mrs Coleman	9694
Mr Davies	9292
Mrs Saliagopoulos	10348
Mrs Turner-Stewart	9694

Total £78447

Committee Capital Allocation

Total £ 30000

2.0 MEMBER'S REVENUE ALLOCATION

Change of use of funding

2.1 Echelford School £700 (Frank Davies)

Echelford School were awarded funding of £700 in March 2008 under delegated authority. This was funded from Mr Davies' allocation and was for playground equipment. The school has since requested that they be allowed to use the funding for playground markings instead. This change of use has been agreed by Area Director in conjunction with the Chairman and Mr Davies.

Funding returned

2.2 East 2 West £3927.82 (Victor Agarwal)

Funding of £5243 was awarded to the East 2 West organisation in 2006/7 for the purposes of youth work in Stanwell Moor. Unfortunately the project had to end earlier than originally planned and the organisation has now returned funding of £3907.82. This has been returned to Mr Agarwal's allocation and is reflected in the table at 1.1.

Delegated authority

2.3 Sunbury Amateur Regatta £1000 (Frank Davies)

A sum of £1000 from Mr Davies' allocation was agreed towards the costs of security for the Regatta.

2.4 Dunboe Place, Shepperton (Laurie Burrell)

A sum of £600 from Mr Burrell's allocation was agreed towards the costs of tree cutting at Dunboe Place Shepperton.

2.5 Civic Pride £954 (Denise Turner-Stewart)

A sum of £500 from Mrs Turner-Stewart's allocation was agreed for litterpickers for Civic Pride.

2.6 Surrey Police £345.98 (Denise Saliagopoulos)

A sum of £345.98 from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocation was agreed towards the costs of holding a 5 a side football tournament.

FUNDING BIDS

The following new requests for funding have been received since the last meeting of the Local Committee. 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.

2.6 Ashford Rotary Club £3500 (Carol Coleman)

The Ashford Rotary Club are seeking funding to replace their Christmas Float, which was stolen and set on fire. The project will include the purchase, renovation and decoration of a suitable vehicle. The cost of the project is expected to be £3500 and they are seeking funding for the whole amount. The float is used to attract and raise charitable donations. Given the difficulties of obtaining estimates in this case, it is recommended that the award will be up to £3500 and the Ashford Rotary Club will be asked to sign an undertaking that any unused funding is returned. Members are asked if they wish to contribute and, if so, how much and by whom.

2.7 Safe Drive Stay Alive SFRS £5000 (Denise Turner-Stewart as Chairman)

Surrey Fire & Rescue Service are seeking to expand and improve the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' project, which is a safety initiative for young drivers. The aim of the project is to reduce the number of casualties on Surrey's roads, particularly involving the 17-24 year old range. The project has grown consistently over recent years and has now been seen by more than 28000 school pupils and college students, with nearly 100% of attendees believing that they will be a safer driver as a result of seeing the production. The funding will primarily be used to cover the one-off costs of rerecording and updating the DVD material which will facilitate expansion of the scheme and will be of greater use in offender rehabilitation initiatives. The total cost of the project is projected to be £120000 and they are seeking £5000 from each of the eleven Local Committees. Members are asked if they wish to contribute and, if so, how much and by whom.

2.8 Fishing for Fun £2971.20 (Carol Coleman)

Groundwork Thames Valley have submitted a bid for funding of £2971.20 to facilitate the Fishing for Fun project in the Spelthorne area. The funding will cover tutor and preparation time, publicity, hire of portable toilets and hand washing equipment and the hire of angling coaches. The project will consist of 6 family activity sessions in the school holidays and is aimed at families and young people. It is hoped that this will be part of a wider 3 year project for which funding has been sought from the Big Lottery Fund. Members are asked if they wish to contribute and, if so, how much and by whom.

2.9 Re-siting of lamp posts in Saxon Road £1600 (Ian Beardsmore)

Mr Beardsmore would like to use some of his funding for the re-siting of lamp posts in Saxon Road at the entrance to Feltham Hill School. This will benefit residents and address community safety issues.

2.10 Multiple Sclerosis Society £500 (Victor Agarwal)

The Spelthorne MS Society are seeking funding of £500 towards costs of £848 for a computer and printer. The computer will benefit members of the Society. It should be noted that this is a retrospective bid as the printer has already been purchased although Mr Agarwal was approached prior to purchase. This will be funded from Mr Agarwal's allocation.

2.11 Shortwood Path Staines £5000 (Denise Turner-Stewart)

Shortwood South Common is an area of common ground and allotments and links Ashford with Staines. The current path is neglected and overgrown Spelthorne Borough Council are seeking funding of £5000 to restore and enhance the path. This will benefit local residents and allotment holders and open up the area as community recreation space. It is hoped that the path will in future be designated as a public right of way and be adopted and maintained by Surrey County Council. Members are asked if they wish to contribute and, if so, how much and by whom.

3.00 CAPITAL ALLOCATION

3.1 Staines Contact Centre £4306.11 (Denise Turner-Stewart)

Staines Contact Centre is a regular meeting place where children of separated families can enjoy contact with one or both parents and often other family members in a comfortable and safe environment. It has been operating at Staines Congregational Church for over nine years, is an Accredited Child Contact Centre and assists families, particularly children, to maintain parental ties. They are seeking funds to refurbish the halls at Staines Congregational Church, including building a kitchenette, new carpets and decoration, new electrical sockets, replacement windows for the toilet and new blinds. The total cost of the project is £4306.11 and they are seeking the full cost from the Local Committee.

3.2 Surrey Fire & Rescue Service £1000 (Denise Turner-Stewart as Chairman)

Surrey Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) are seeking funding from each of the eleven Local Committees to purchase equipment for the expansion and improvement of the Youth Engagement Scheme (YES). This is a one week, 5 day practical programme for young people aged 14-17 and aims to aid personal development of the young people and address anti-social behaviour in the community. The total costs of the project are £26250 and SFRS are seeking £1000 from the Local Committee in Spelthorne. It is hoped that the rest of the funding will be met through the other 10 Local Committees, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Positive Activities for Young People. This would help establish the YES in two extra locations and ensure continued delivery at Walton Fire Station.

4. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

Paragraph 1.1 sets out what remains of both the individual Members revenue allocation and the capital. There are sufficient funds for all the projects to be funded.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

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

6. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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APPENDIX A

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 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.
- f) Proposals will be considered from SCC services, other statutory bodies and voluntary organisations.

2. FUNDING PAID UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The decision to pay funding of not more than £1000 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 £1000
- 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 be for a future project, not a retrospective request.
- f) 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 Spelthorne and agreed by the Committee. These funds are not allocated to individual Members but are 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:

- 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 Spelthorne.

APPENDIX B

GUIDANCE NOTE

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE SPELTHORNE - MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS

This guidance note is designed to assist in the consideration of applications for requests for funding from Members' Allocations, and should be used in conjunction with the formal criteria laid down for funding.

1. FUNDING CEILINGS

- i) There is a general presumption against requests for 100% funding of projects and the Local Committee would wish to see evidence of fund raising and/or other partner contributions. However the Local Committee reserves the right to fund 100% of projects, taking into account the overall resources of the organisation, the sum requested and any previous fundraising by the organisation.
- ii) Individual bids should generally be for no more than £10,000.

2. REPEAT REVENUE FUNDING

There is a general presumption against requests for repeat funding for the same project, as over time this would reduce the scope to fulfil the original aim of allocations which was to enable Members to respond to local issues. However, the Local Committee reserves the right to vary this rule where it is felt that the project is making an exceptional contribution to the community and more time may be required to secure alternative funding.

3. RETROSPECTIVE FUNDING

- i) As a general rule, it is not considered good practice to fund projects retrospectively and funding will not be considered for projects where the group has already committed, or decided to commit, funds.
- ii) Applications that are retrospective due to the timing of the Local Committee meetings may be considered provided that the proposed allocation has been brought to the attention of the Area Director before the event/purchase/expenditure takes place. However the group should be advised by the proposing Member that the Local Committee decision is not a 'rubber stamping' exercise and that any expenditure they commit in the hope of receiving funding is entirely at their own risk.
- iii) Applications for retrospective projects cannot be funded under the delegated authority powers.

4. PRIVATE CLUBS OR MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATIONS

Such organisations need to demonstrate clearly the wider community benefit that their project would bring.

5. FUNDING FOR INDIVIDUALS

Funding bids which would benefit an individual or an individual's property will not be considered.

6. HIGHWAYS PROJECTS

- i) Members' allocations should rarely be used to 'top up' the Highways budget agreed by the County Council, especially where the additional £100,000 capital allocation has been allocated by the Local Committee for Highways purposes. However, it is recognised that small street scene improvements, i.e. additional tree cutting or planting, can be a positive and welcome use of Members' Allocations.
- ii) Any such proposals should initially be shared with the West Area Group Manager/Local Transportation Manager for a view on appropriateness of the proposed expenditure bearing in mind any priority lists and the capacity for additional work to be carried out without damaging the implementation of the agreed work programme for the service.