



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (Spelthorne)

MANNA FOOD BANK PROJECT

2nd August 2012

KEY ISSUE

This report provides additional, background information on the Manna Food Bank Project in Spelthorne.

SUMMARY

At the Spelthorne Local Committee meeting on 9 July 2012, councillors requested additional information in support of a bid for Member Allocation funding from the Parish of Staines and Churches together in Staines and Laleham. The churches wish to establish a food bank that will provide emergency food for individuals and families from the Borough of Spelthorne. This report identifies and makes recommendations on a bid received for funding.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to:

- (i) Consider the bid for £7,000 funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 **revenue** funding from the Parish of Staines and Churches Together in Staines and Laleham for the Manna Food Bank project.
- (ii) Note the background information presented in this report.
- (iii) Agree which members will sponsor the project, if approved
- (iv) Agree the amount of funding that each councillor sponsoring the project is willing to contribute from their remaining funds, as detailed at Appendix 1, if approved.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It has become apparent, particularly to many local clergy, that there are rising numbers of people who are calling on vicarage doorsteps asking for food because they have insufficient funds to feed themselves and their families.
- 1.2 The Manna Food Bank project aims to provide a five-day food parcel for those who find, due to circumstances, that they cannot afford to put food on their table. Examples of clients likely to benefit from this project include those awaiting the processing and payment of benefits and those who experience a sudden loss of income due to redundancy/unemployment, bereavement or accident.

2. DEMAND FOR FOOD BANK SERVICES

- 2.1 At this stage it is unclear to the Parish of Staines and Churches Together in Staines exactly how many people will require this service. However, Saint Saviour's church in Sunbury currently provides a similar service that is estimated to be providing five such food parcels to families and individuals each week. This is considered a significant demand given the demographics of the Sunbury area.
- 2.2 While Surrey's social care teams do not currently keep statistics on the level of referrals for such assistance, it operates an Emergency Cash scheme that is made available to clients for such circumstances. However, anecdotally, the team reports that the number of people taking advantage of the Emergency Cash scheme is very low, as social workers work to develop individual service plans that cater to individual circumstances and that ensure that benefit entitlements are maximised. Where benefits do not cover individual needs, individuals are however referred to charitable organisations for support.
- 2.3 It should be noted, however, that families in financial hardship may not contact statutory services in the first instance, preferring to access alternative, informal, community assistance.

3. OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Local Committee may choose to approve all, part or none of the funding proposal under discussion in this report.

4. CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 In relation to this bid, consultation, where appropriate, may have been undertaken by the organisation receiving the funding, the local Member or the Community Partnerships Team, as required.

- 4.2 The appropriate Surrey County Council services and partner agencies are consulted when bids are submitted, as required.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The project detailed in this report has completed a standard application form giving details of timescales, purpose and other funding applications made. All bids are also scrutinised to ensure that they comply with the Council's Financial Framework and represent value for money.
- 5.2 The money available to fund this proposal is set out in the Local Committee's financial position statement attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.3 Please note the figures at Appendix 1 will not include any applications recently submitted for approval after the drafting of this report or that are currently pending approval under delegated authority. They also do not include any funding that is in the process of being returned to the Local Committee.

6. EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The allocation of the Committee's budgets is intended to enhance the wellbeing of residents and make the best possible use of the funds. Funding is available to all residents, community groups or organisations based in, or serving, the area. The success of the bid depends entirely upon its ability to meet the agreed criteria, which are flexible.
- 6.2 Local Committee funding is allocated to projects that benefit a diverse range of community safety needs.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The spending proposal put forward for this meeting has been assessed against the County standards for appropriateness and value for money within the agreed Financial Framework and the local agreed criteria, which is available from the Community Partnerships Team.
- 7.2 The Local Committee is asked to consider the item submitted for funding from 2012/13 Local Committee delegated budgets, as detailed in the report.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee is being asked to decide on this bid so that the Community Partnerships Team can process the bid in line with the wishes of the Committee.

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 If approved by the Local Committee, organisations will be approached to sign funding agreements for their projects based on the bids submitted.
- 9.2 Any changes to an approved bid will be discussed with the local Members and the Chairman, and if the changes are considered to be significant, an amended bid will be brought back to the Committee for approval. In all other circumstances, the Community Partnerships Team will process the payments as soon as possible once the signed agreement has been received.
- 9.3 Within 6 months of receipt, the applicant will be contacted for details of how the funding was spent and will be asked to supply evidence.

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Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC Constitution: Financial Framework • Local Committee Protocol: Criteria and Guidance for Members Allocations • Local Committee Funding Bid