



Allocating Local Committee Funding: Members' Allocation

Local Committee for Woking 22 October 2003

KEY ISSUE:

The Local Committee has £55,622 of this year's Members' Allocation budget available to allocate.

SUMMARY:

This report lists and where appropriate makes recommendations on bids received for Members' Allocations which have been sponsored by at least one Member.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Members:

1. release the full allocation approved at the last meeting to Shopmobility if their new request for sponsorship from local businesses isn't quickly successful
2. decide which of the proposals to fund and any conditions.

Background

1. The Local Committee has £107,100 Members' Allocation in 2003/04. On 19 March 2003, Members set criteria to assess bids (see annex 1). £51,478 has been allocated so far this year, leaving £55,622 available.
2. Members are reminded that at the March meeting of the Local Committee for Woking, they expressed their intention to have allocated the whole budget by the end of this meeting. However, since that plan was made, extra meetings have been arranged on 18 November and 1 March, and there was already a meeting planned for January. Allocations could be made in January and still leave time for the Committee to check in March whether there is any underspend which they should re-allocate before the end of the financial year.

Outstanding business

3. Members will remember that the July 2003 meeting of the Local Committee received a bid from Woking Shopmobility for £6,152 to buy four new disability scooters to replace worn-out ones, sponsored by Mrs Valerie Tinney. At Mrs Tinney's suggestion the Committee allocated £3,076 for two scooters, on the understanding that Shopmobility would find money to buy two themselves. Shopmobility has responded that they have managed to find the money to buy one, but cannot afford two. They have tried asking the local shops to sponsor vehicles without success. Mrs Tinney has put her voice behind a further request to the shops for sponsorship. The Local Director recommends that, if the new request isn't quickly successful, the Committee accept that Shopmobility is unable to match the Members' allocation, and release the allocation.
4. As reported previously, Woking Community Relations Forum made a bid towards the end of last financial year for the salary of the Race Relations Adviser. The Local Committee decided to postpone making a decision on this bid until the future of the post was clearer. The Local Director met the Forum's Chair, interim manager and consultant on 29 September and is pleased to report that the Forum is making good progress on defining its role and priorities. Following the conversation, the Forum has decided to withdraw this bid, and to put forward another proposal in future. This will probably be for a one-off project rather than an on-going post.

New bids received

5. The following bids for the remaining £55,622 Members' Allocation have been assessed by the Local Director and meet the criteria:

PROJECT NAME	SPONSER	BID (£)	Local Director recomm - endation	See para:
Community transport to West Byfleet, Byfleet Care	Mr Geoff Marlow	600	600	6
Crusaider vehicle, St John's Ambulance	Mrs Val Tinney	1,000 a year for three years	1,000 to 3,000 this year	7
West Byfleet Evergreen Club meetings & special events	Mr Geoff Marlow	up to 1,400	1,000	8
Dance & Disability, Woking Dance Festival	Mrs Val Tinney	1,820	1,820	
Gardening project, Cranstock Day Service	Mrs Elizabeth Compton	4,432	4,432	9
Swimming pool, Byfleet Primary School	Mr Geoff Marlow	1,000	1,000	10
Self-reliance in Lakeview, Lakeview Action Group	Margaret Hill	5,000 a year for three years	5,000 a year for three years	11
Youth provision in Woking Town centre	Margaret Hill	20,000	10,000 now; review in January	12
Princes Trust Team, Surrey Care Trust	Mrs Elizabeth Compton	10,000	10,000	15
Hermitage School Hall hire, St John's Brownies	Mrs Val Tinney	400		16
TOTAL bids		45,652	44,852 to 46,852	

6. **Byfleet Care:** Members will remember that the July 2003 meeting of the Local Committee approved an allocation of £600 to Byfleet Care to cover the costs of volunteers who take people from Byfleet to the new health centre in West Byfleet if they are unable to get there on public transport or on the community transport bus from Dickson House. Mr Geoff Marlow sponsored the bid, and got Members' agreement that he could come back with another bid later if the need continued. The Primary Care Trust has rejected an application from Byfleet Care, and Mr Marlow therefore submits this new bid to ensure that the transport continues to be available. The Primary Care Trust has promised that it will shortly arrange a meeting to review the arrangements. The Local Director recommends that if the Committee is minded to continue their support, they should make an allocation to keep Byfleet Care's service going until the decisions of that review meeting can be implemented but make it clear that a solution must be found which does not require an open-ended commitment from the Committee for revenue funding.
7. **Crusaider vehicle:** St Johns want £3,000, spread over three years, to help pay off a loan they took out to buy their new Crusaider Ambulance. There is some leeway in this year's budget, and the Local Committee tries to avoid spending next year's money in advance. So the Local Director recommends that the Committee award them a lump sum this year of anything between £1,000 and the full £3,000.
8. **West Byfleet Evergreen Club:** the Local Director recommends £1,000 as this is the sum which the Local Committee has given to similar projects.
9. **Gardening project, Cranstock Day Service:** this provides training and sheltered employment to people with a learning disability. Last year, the Local Committee for Woking gave £7,200 to set up the Gardening project, which was also supported by the Surrey Heath Local Committee. The bid said that they only need one-off funding to get going, because Cranstock Day Service would supply staff time, and they predicted that the project would be sustainable long-term. Their report demonstrates that the project has been very successful but has not become self-sustaining. Their bid says that they still hope to make it more sustainable longer-term. They have therefore approached this Committee and Surrey Heath Local Committee for a second year's funding, but less money. Because the project is such a good idea and has started well, the Local Director recommends that the Local Committee approve a second allocation on condition that Cranstock Day Service undertake to generate income, either from donations or fees, to make the project sustainable after that. It is hoped that officers will be in a position to update Members at the meeting on the decision made by the Surrey Heath Local Committee.
10. **Byfleet Primary School swimming pool:** Local Committee allocations cannot be spent on mainstream curricular activities, but this pool is also

used by the local members of the public, who are a long way from the public swimming pool.

11. **Lakeview Action Group:** Lakeview is one of the areas in Woking which is agreed by all to be relatively deprived, although too small to show up on ward-level statistics. The local community has formed the Lakeview Action Group and asked for funding for a community development worker. Woking Borough Council has agreed to support the post with £5,000 a year for three years. The community are hoping to get the same from the County Council and from other sources such as churches. Because their plans are still being finalised and the project is new, the Local Director recommends that the Local Committee approves an allocation of £5,000 a year for 3 years, with future years' funding to be released only on receipt of a report demonstrating that the project is developing as hoped.
12. **Youth provision:** Youth is a Surrey County Council priority, and the Leader has asked all Local Committees to make young people a priority in their decision about Members' Allocations. After consulting young people and measuring provision against need, several proposals are under discussion, but are not yet at the stage of being able to put forward a proposal.
13. One is better provision for young people in the town centre. With the support of Woking Borough Council, a voluntary agency has developed a proposal for a town centre project, known for the time being as "Regen". It is better financially if new facilities are managed by a voluntary organisation – partly because of VAT issues, partly because they are eligible for charitable funds. However, it is also important that any new service is of good quality, is accessible to all young people, and is the best use of available funding. The Surrey County Council Youth Development Service is liaising with the voluntary agency to ensure this.
14. The Local Director recommends that the Local Committee should allocate £20,000 towards meeting the needs of young people; that of that sum, £10,000 is allocated to Regen, on the condition that the Youth Development Service is satisfied with the quality and accessibility of the service; and that the Local Committee consider in January all proposals for young people's facilities including Regen, to decide on the best use of the remaining £10,000.
15. **Princes Trust:** the proposal is to run a course for young people three times a year.
16. **St. John's Brownies:** Members need to be aware that Surrey County Council Members have set priorities for funding youth voluntary activities, and that this does not fall within them. However, Mrs Tinney points out that any rent paid to schools goes back into our budget anyway, and she an exception.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: The listed bids for Members' Allocations; Local Director assessment of these bids; Surrey County Council Youth Development Service plan

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Annex 1 – Criteria for allocation

1. On 19 March 2003, Members set criteria to assess bids. Members decided that the Local Director would assess each suggestion to make sure that it:
 - a. supports the priorities of the Surrey Corporate Plan and Woking Community Strategy
 - b. is possible to implement within the time and budget, and offers value for money
 - c. meets criteria set by Audit (in summary, that it is a legal and good use of public money; details available from the Local Director).

2. The Committee also decided that they would be more likely to allocate funding to bids which meet the following criteria:
 - a. The funding needed is a "one-off".
 - b. The project will demonstrate its impact before the end of the financial year.
 - c. The project will give long-term benefit.
 - d. The project is preventative in purpose.
 - e. The project targets more disadvantaged areas or communities.
 - f. Surrey County Council funding will unlock much more funding from other sources.

3. And the Committee decided to aim for a portfolio of schemes which overall:
 - a. include at least one comparatively large project of benefit to Woking;
 - b. benefit a variety of communities of interest (for example, young people, old people, ethnic minorities, disabled people), and different areas of Woking;
 - c. include a mix of large and small projects, but not a lot of very small ones;

and that a large project that benefits a lot of people will take priority over a project that benefits only a few people.