



Allocating Local Committee Funding: Members' Allocation

**Local Committee for Woking
28 January 2004**

KEY ISSUE:

The Local Committee has £28,370 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:

The Committee is asked to:

- a. agree the recommended allocations
- b. instruct the Local Director to explore the proposal for support to asylum seekers.

Introduction and 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). £78,370 has been allocated so far this year, leaving £28,370 available. £10,000 of this has been ear-marked for youth projects.

Outstanding business

2. 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. The Local Committee on 23 July 2003 allocated £5,000 to Woking Youth Council subject to money being spent within Surrey County Council powers, the Local Director to ensure this happens in consultation with Chairman. The Chairman has asked the Youth Council to make a presentation to this Local Committee meeting about the use of the allocated £5,000.
3. At the last meeting, the Local Committee allocated £10,000 to Regen, on the condition that the Youth Development Service is satisfied with the quality and accessibility of the service. The Youth Development Service has confirmed that they are satisfied, and so a formal offer has been made.

Bids received

4. The following bids for the remaining Members' Allocation have been assessed by the Local Director and meet the criteria.

PROJECT	Available to allocate (£)	BID (£)	Local Director recommendation	SPONSOR	See para:
Flood-valve to prevent river water coming into Surrey County Council gully	28,370	4,500	4,500	Mr Geoff Marlow	5
Regen: Towards costs of town centre youth facility	13,870	10,000	Carry bid forward to next year and consider then	Mrs Margaret Hill	10

To reduce crime and fear of crime among young people in Woking Park (priority: more lighting)	23,870	10,000	10,000	Mrs Sheila Gruselle	6
Beaufort Community Primary School Family Links programme: "a whole-school approach to creating a calm, disciplined, respectful school community"	13,870	4,100	4,100	Mr David Rousell	11
Feasibility study for cycle way between Chobham & Woking	9,770	500	500	Mr David Rousell	12
Shopmobility: a small disability vehicle for children and small adults	9,270	1,200	1,200	Mrs Sheila Gruselle	13
Different Strokes (Woking): exercise etc for younger stroke survivors	8,070	1,000	1,000	Mrs Elizabeth Compton	14
Woking access group: publishing a disability access guide to Woking town centre	7,070	5,000 for survey analysis; 7,500 for printing	5,000	Mrs Elizabeth Compton	15
Woking & District Sea Cadets: replacement of rescue/safety boat	2,070	6,000	2,070 plus anything unspent up to 6,000 total	Mr Geoff Marlow	16
Support to asylum seekers		not specified	explore further and consider in 2004/05		17
TOTAL			28,370		

5. Flood valve to prevent river water coming into Surrey County

Council gully: The Local Committee allocated £2,500 to install a flood valve at Foxlake Farm Estate, Byfleet. The installation cost was £7,000. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman recommend that the Committee approve an increase in this allocation of £4,500 to meet the real cost.

6. To reduce crime and fear of crime among young people in Woking

Park: 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.

7. At its last meeting, the Local Committee decided that £10,000 of the remaining Member Allocation would be given to a youth project. (This is distinct from the £5,000 for the Youth Council). Regen had applied for £20,000. The Local Committee gave them £10,000 and agreed to consider them alongside any other proposals for young people's facilities at this meeting.
8. Since the last meeting, a corporate decision has been taken by Surrey County Council to allocate resources to tackle the issue of young people and crime or fear of crime in three boroughs including Woking. A cross-agency meeting including Surrey County Council Local Director and Youth Development Service, Community Safety Officer, Woking Borough Council Executive Director and Head of Leisure, the Woking Borough Inspector and Acting Divisional Commander of Surrey Police, was held on 7 January 2004. This meeting identified "hotspots" for young people and crime, prioritised them and identified responsibility for remedial action.
9. All agreed that it is important to take speedy action to reduce anxiety about crime in Woking Park, some but not all of which is around the new skateboard park. The police have increased policing levels and are tackling offenders; the next step is to prevent recurrence, and rebuild the confidence of law-abiding young people so that they continue to use the facilities. (This will have the additional benefit of reducing skateboarding in the town centre, a regular cause of complaint). The portable CCTV camera is being used. The Youth Development Service has allocated funding to outreach work, and is trying to recruit staff to do it. The meeting – supported by the Local Director – recommends that the Local Committee allocate the ear-marked £10,000 to activities to reduce crime and fear of crime among young people in Woking Park by contributing to the cost of additional lighting.
10. The Local Director recommends that the Local Committee agree this use of the £10,000 set aside for a youth project. She also recommends that the application for further funding from Regen should be carried forward to next year, so that the Local Committee can consider it again at an appropriate time then.
11. **Beaufort Community Primary School Family Links programme:**
The school sees itself as a focal point for the local community, and has an overall project plan to expand work with the community. They are asking for funding for the first phase, which is specifically for "a whole-school approach to creating a calm, disciplined, respectful school community". It consists of training all staff and parents in the Nurturing Programme run by Family Links, a national charity.
12. **Feasibility study for cycle way between Chobham & Woking:** This request comes from Mrs. Lavinia Sealy, who says that the Local Committee

in Surrey Heath intends to allocate about £500 to this and asks for the Local Committee for Woking to match it.

13. **Woking Shopmobility:** a bid for a further £1200 would buy a small disability vehicle for children and small adults. The Local Committee has already given them funding for two adult-sized vehicles. When that bid was discussed, Members asked the Local Director to investigate possibilities of asking local shops to sponsor vehicles. The Local Director has talked to the Town Centre Manager, who advises that Shopmobility already receive help from local business for other things and does not recommend approaching them for this too.
14. **Different Strokes (Woking):** This is a new charity to support younger stroke survivors and their carers. The project is to provide exercise, physiotherapy, swimming, social and aqua aerobics: to improve mobility, balance and fitness, and to help build confidence.
15. **Woking Access Group disability access guide:** volunteers are surveying town centre premises and shops for their accessibility to disabled people. The group wants funding to analyse the results and prepare them for publication (£5,000) and the cost of printing the guide in a format convenient for disabled people (£7,500).
16. **Woking & District Sea Cadets:** they are applying for the full cost of a rescue/safety boat for use on Goldsworth Park lake, to provide health and safety cover for Woking Sea Cadets and others as the Unit will apply to become a Royal Yacht Association Training Centre.
17. **Support to asylum seekers:** a representative of the Iranian community in Woking who has been supporting Iranian asylum seekers for 10 years has applied for funding to set up an organisation to do the same for all asylum seekers. This proposal is not yet sufficiently developed to be funded. I recommend that I work with the applicant to develop ideas to the stage at which funding applications can be made to various sources including the Local Committee next year.

Bids carried forward

18. I have been asked about the possibility that Members might be interested in receiving a formal bid for several projects. These projects are currently making applications to other funders. Several of them are also on the list to be considered for the Surrey County Council self-reliance funding for Sheerwater & Maybury. I therefore suggested that they should delay making a formal approach to the Local Committee until they know the results of these other applications.

The Projects are:

IT Learning centres at a. Maybury community centre b. Sheerwater community centre	up to £50,000
Asian Home-School Liaison project	Unknown
Asian girls holiday scheme	Unknown
Sheerwater & Maybury Community Working Group	£300

19. Before she left, Margaret Hill suggested that any underspend this year might be allocated to refurbishment of Knaphill library. As there is unlikely to be any underspend this year, I suggest that Members decide if they want to add this to the list for consideration next year.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: The listed bids for Members' Allocations
Local Director assessment of these bids
Notes of cross-agency officer meeting 7
January 2004 about youth and community
safety

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Annex 1 – Criteria for allocation

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: supports the priorities of the Surrey Corporate Plan and Woking Community Strategy

is possible to implement within the time and budget, and offers value for money meets criteria set by Audit (in summary, that it is a legal and good use of public money; details available from the Local Director).

The Committee also decided that they would be more likely to allocate funding to bids which meet the following criteria:

The funding needed is a "one-off".

The project will demonstrate its impact before the end of the financial year.

The project will give long-term benefit.

The project is preventative in purpose.

The project targets more disadvantaged areas or communities.

Surrey County Council funding will unlock much more funding from other sources.

And the Committee decided to aim for a portfolio of schemes which overall: include at least one comparatively large project of benefit to Woking; benefit a variety of communities of interest (for example, young people, old people, ethnic minorities, disabled people), and different areas of Woking; 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.