



# **Allocating Local Committee Funding: Members' Allocations**

## **Local Committee for Woking 26 April 2004**

### **KEY ISSUE:**

The Local Committee has £110,000 Members' Allocation budget in 2004/2005, of which £105,000 is available to allocate.

### **SUMMARY:**

This report lists and 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 to amend one of the criterion for assessing bids from "the project will demonstrate its impact before the end of the financial year" to "the project will demonstrate its impact within 12 months"
- b. set aside £2,500 of the budget for community engagement
- c. agree the allocations with, where appropriate, the recommended conditions.

## **Member allocations 2003/04**

1. I am pleased to report that the full cost of the new boat for the Sea Cadets could be met from the Members' Allocation budget in 2003/04. This used all underspend.

## **Member allocations 2004/05**

2. The Surrey County Council Local Committee for Woking has £110,000 in 2004/05 to spend on projects which will benefit the people of Woking. Surrey County Council has decided that this year, £35,000 of this must be spent on capital for voluntary organisations; the other £75,000 can be capital or revenue.
3. Last year, the Local Committee decided to allocate £5,000 of this year's money to the community development worker on Lakeview Estate, subject to the project developing as hoped. This leaves £105,000 available to allocate, of which £35,000 must be spent on capital for voluntary organisations.
4. A number of projects are likely to make bids in future, but are not in a position to do so. Some of these are likely to be supported by Members. Also, members promised to re-consider an application from Regen in July. To leave some money available for bids later on the year, I recommend that Members allocate no more than £73,000 (two-thirds) at this meeting.

## **Criteria for allocations**

5. On 19 March 2003, Members set criteria to assess bids, and in January 2004, Members agreed to carry this forward into the new financial year.
6. One of the agreed criteria is that "the project will demonstrate its impact before the end of the financial year". This proved unreasonable in the case of projects approved in the last quarter. I therefore suggest that it is amended to read, "the project will demonstrate its impact within 12 months". The criteria, with this amendment, are in annex 1.

## **Bids received**

7. Last year, the Local Committee decided to set aside £2,500 of the budget for community engagement. I recommend that the Local Committee does the same this year. If it is not spent, underspend can be re-allocated to other projects before the end of the financial year.

8. The table below shows all bids received which meet the Local Committee criteria and have been sponsored by a member. They are therefore all eligible for decision by the Local Committee on 26 April. As Members will see, the listed bids plus the recommended £2,500 for community consultation total £71,000, and include £35,000 capital for voluntary organisations.

<b>Project summary</b>	<b>£ requested</b>	<b>£ recommended</b>	<b>see para.</b>
<b>Capital</b>			
Asian Home/School Liaison Project: toy libraries for 2 schools & mosque	£1,000	£1,000	9
"Benny the Bus": community facility used by numerous local groups	£15,000	£3,000	10
Byfleet Cricket Club store-room	£6,000	£6,000	
Byfleet Cricket Club training equipment for youth team	£1,500	£1,500	
LIAISE portacabin replacement (LIAISE provides support to Asian women)	£25,000	£20,000	11
Old Woking Community Centre roof repairs	£3,000	£3,000	
Old Woking Cricket Club equipment	£5,000	£5,000	
Woking District Scout Camp: to install a WC with disability access	£9,000	£9,000	12
<b>TOTAL capital</b>	<b>£65,500</b>	<b>£48,500</b>	
Asian Home/School Liaison Project Asian Girls holiday classes	£2,550	£1,500	13
Coldharbour Lane lunch club (for older and disabled people)	£300	£300	14
Link Leisure - Fun Link (holiday scheme for severely disabled children)	£4,000	£4,000	
Saturday School at Bishop David Brown School	£20,000	£10,000	15
Sheerwater Scouts - tree work to make site safe	£700	£700	16
St John's Brownies hire of hall for meetings	£800	£400	17
Woking Community Relations Forum multi-cultural evening	£4,000	£3,000	18
<b>TOTAL revenue</b>	<b>£32,350</b>	<b>£19,900</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£97,850</b>	<b>£68,400</b>	

9. Asian Home/School Liaison Project toy libraries: this service is run by Surrey County Council Ethnic Minority Language Achievement section in the Children's Service. They have asked for £500 to buy replacement toys for toy libraries used at Sythwood and Maybury schools. A further £500 is requested for a scheme to provide a toy library in the mosque, on

condition that this can be sustained. I recommend that Members agree the full sum, the second £500 to be realised only when I am satisfied that robust arrangements exist to manage the project.

10. Benny the Bus: It is better value for money for one agency to have a vehicle which can be used by many groups – otherwise, each group wants to raise funds to buy its own, which is then under-used, and from that point of view this is a bid which Members may want to support. I would have thought it would be better for a shared vehicle to be run by an organisations which has other vehicles and is therefore in an advantageous position for insurance, maintenance, repairs and emergency replacements. I have not had time to explore this before writing this report, and hope to report on this to the meeting. Mrs Tinney, who sponsored the bid, has been informed that the Woking Chamber of Commerce will act as the “accountable body”, and would like any approval to be on condition that this is confirmed in writing.
11. LIAISE portacabin: this is an important project and a contribution to the cost of replacement premises would make a significant contribution to fulfilling Surrey County Council’s self-reliance policy. It is recommended that the allocation is made conditional on match funding being secured from other key partners in Woking.
12. Woking District Scout Camp at present has no WC which is accessible to people in wheelchairs. There are wheelchair users who would make use of the site if it could be made accessible to them. The Scouts have kept the cost low by providing unskilled labour themselves (for example, clearing the site).
13. Asian girls holiday scheme: this scheme aims to reduce, isolation and self-harm among Asian teenagers. It has the backing of Surrey County Council Children’s service and has been shown to lead to improved educational attainment.
14. The Local Committee has funded the Coldharbour Lane lunch club once before.
15. The Saturday School ran into financial problems at the end of 2003. Sheerwater Maybury Partnership, Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council found bridging funding to keep the project going until the end of the academic year in July 2004. They are working hard to raise the funding to keep the school going next academic year. I am supporting their efforts because the school contributes to self-reliance, being an early intervention in a priority area. If long-term funding is secured, the bridging funding will be eligible to be covered by the self-reliance allocation, but if it fails, the self-reliance funding should not be used. It would be very helpful if the Local Committee could set aside £10,000 to “underwrite” the Saturday School during their fundraising, on the

understanding that if fundraising succeeds, the money will be returned to the Committee to use for other bids.

16. Sheerwater Scout tree work: if Members wish to pay for this work to be done, I recommend that the Local Transportation Service arrange for the necessary works to be done and charged to the Members' Allocation Budget. This would be less trouble, ensure quality, and possibly be cheaper.
17. St. John's Brownies: The Brownies need £800 to pay rent to the school where they meet. Surrey County Council Members set corporate priorities for funding youth voluntary activities, and they did not include Brownies' rent. The Brownies' application to Woking Borough Council was refused. The Local Committee gave St John's Brownies £400 last year, and the Local Committee does not generally like to incur on-going expenditure. I therefore recommend that the Local Committee allocate them £400, the same as last year, to allow them time to fundraise the remainder, but advise them that they cannot expect annual funding from the Local Committee.
18. Woking Community Relations Forum: Mrs Tinney, who has sponsored the bid, recommends that funding is conditional on Woking Community Relations Forum producing a detailed proposal, with costings, showing what they plan to do, and demonstrating that they are liaising with the Town Centre Manager, Youth Council and One World Week to ensure that there is no duplication of events.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: The listed bids for Members' Allocations

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## Annex 1 – Criteria for allocation

To be considered, projects must

- a. support the priorities of the Surrey Corporate Plan and Woking Community Strategy.
- b. be possible to implement within the time and budget, and offer value for money.

In choosing what to fund, the Local Committee aims for a portfolio which overall:

1. includes at least one comparatively large project of benefit to Woking;
  2. benefits a variety of communities of interest (for example, young people, old people, ethnic minorities, disabled people), and different areas of Woking;
  3. includes a mix of large and small projects, but not a lot of very small ones.
- A large project that benefits a lot of people will take priority over a project that benefits only a few people.

Within this framework, projects are more likely to be funded if:

1. The funding is needed "one-off".
2. The project will demonstrate its impact within 12 months.
3. The project will give long-term benefit.
4. The project is preventive in purpose.
5. The project targets more disadvantaged areas or communities.
6. Local Committee funding will unlock much more funding from other sources.
7. If small and local, the project has a significant impact on the quality of life of the people affected.