

1. Can you provide a summary of the process for allocating funds within the parish, and who is involved in the decision-making process?

*The process for allocating funds is made by the Parish Assembly when setting the estimates and agreeing the parish rate.*

2. How are different spending needs prioritised within the parish when allocating funds?

*See question 1*

3. Are there specific criteria or guidelines used to assess which projects or initiatives receive funding?

*See question 1*

4. How does the parish ensure that funds are allocated in a way that benefits parishioners?

*See question 1*

5. What role does the Parish Assembly play in the decision-making process for fund allocation?

*See question 1*

6. Do the Procureurs consider government strategies when making decisions about fund allocation? If so, which strategies are taken into account?

*Fund allocation is as per the estimates set by the Parish Assembly. The Procureurs "Carry out the lawful instructions/decisions of the Parish Assembly or officers in relation to the use and application of funds and resources, even if disagreeing with their wisdom ..." as above (see re Grouville (Procureurs du Bien Public) (1970) JJ 1451).*

7. How do the Procureurs ensure that parish funding is aligned with the broader objectives or goals of the government (e.g. putting children first, health prevention, carbon neutral roadmap, community safety)?

*Where the Parish has a duty under specific legislation to deliver then this should be provided within the budget (e.g. as duty bearer under Children (Convention Rights) (Jersey) Law 2022, scheduled public authority under FOI/DP etc); this is different from 'government priorities or policies' which are States of Jersey strategies.*

8. Have there been any instances when government priorities or policies have directly influenced how parish funds are allocated?

*See question 7*

9. How do the Procureurs coordinate with the government when their priorities or policies overlap with parish spending?

*Through the Connétable.*

10. Is there a formal or informal process for consulting with the government before making significant financial decisions or allocating funds for projects that could overlap with government policy?

*Led by the Connétable.*

11. Do the Procureurs assess the potential impact of funded projects on the local community?

*Allocation of funds e.g. charitable grants is as per the Parish Assembly decision/budget*

12. Do the Procureurs allocate funds based on the needs or demands of specific groups within the parish, such as youth services, the elderly, or businesses?

*Allocation of funds e.g. charitable grants is as per the Parish Assembly decision/budget*

13. How do the Procureurs monitor and track the spending of allocated funds to ensure accountability and prevent overspending or misallocation?

*In St Lawrence, the Procureurs counter sign every payment and monitor the bank account and expenditure constantly with our bookkeeper.*

14. Are there any external audits or reviews of the parish's finances to ensure transparency and responsible management of public funds?

*All Parishes have their accounts independently/professionally audited to ensure transparency, audited accounts have to be presented to the Parish Assembly by Law (Rates Law Article 21) before setting the parish rate for the year.*

15. How do the Procureurs/parishes manage any surplus or deficit funds?

*Surplus/deficit is factored into the following year estimates, see Article 21(3) of the Rates Law and is highlighted to the Parishioners at the Rates Assembly to the Parishioners*

16. What types of projects or initiatives typically receive the most funding?

*The most funding is directed to the greater benefit of the Parishioners; accordingly, the Roads account is well funded as is the Honorary Police. The Refuse collection is also a significant annual expense.*

17. How does the parish handle requests for funding from local organisations or groups, and what criteria are used to assess these requests?

*Requests for funding – as per Q11/12 above and charitable grants? Grants are listed in the annual accounts which are published on the parish website; may also be communicated through parish magazine articles etc?*

18. How do the parishes ensure transparency in the fund allocation process? Is there a public-facing report or summary of how funds have been allocated and spent?

*By presenting proposed estimates to the Parishioners at the Rates Assembly for approval.*

19. How are decisions communicated to parishioners of how their contributions are being used?

*Historic expenditure is presented at the Rates Assembly where the audited accounts are scrutinised, at the same Assembly proposals for current years expenditure are presented to the Parishioners and after approval the Rate is set to fund the proposals.*

20. Is there a mechanism for parishioners to raise concerns or questions about fund allocation decisions?

*Parishioners raise concerns at Parish Assembly/ies or directly with the Connétable.*

21. How does the parish ensure that allocated funds are spent as intended, and are there any measures in place to prevent misuse?

*As per earlier questions, see the Procureurs duty on use/application of funds, the Parish Assembly approves the budget, accounts are audited and published etc.*

22. Is there any joint funding or shared investment in projects between the parish and the government? If so, can you provide some examples?

*The Parish collects the Island wide Rate on behalf of the Government. Honorary Police fines that are imposed at Parish Hall Enquires are in certain circumstance divisible with the Government.*