

Financial Oversight of the Parish

30 July 2025

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 etc. is made by the Parish Assembly when setting the budget and agreeing the parish rate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 budget 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?

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

The Connétable liaises with the Government on such matters.

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?

Not as far as the Procureurs role goes. The Connétable liaises with the Government on such matters.

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?

The Parish undergoes an annual audit through Alex Picot and Company.

Furthermore, introducing a mid-financial year finance review is under consideration and will be subject to further discussion in the Autumn.

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 budget, see Article 21(3) of the Rates Law

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

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

Charitable donations and grants receive significant funding:

St Ouen's Youth and Community Centre	£10,000
1st St Ouën's Scout Group	£1,000
St Ouën's Football Club	£1,000
St Ouën's Youth Club	£1,000
Vinchelez Sports Club	£1,000
Leoville Sports & Miniature Rifle Club	£1,000
St George's Church Club	£1,000
Other charitable donations	£19,000

The above are in addition to the sum budgeted for the Youth Officer, that being £22,000

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?

Copies of accounts from organisations are requested, with the criteria considerate of the finances of that organization.

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?

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

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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?

- a. The Parish undertook significant maintenance on some of the public footpaths around the Parish. This was funded by the Government, with the work carried out by the Parish.**
- b. The Parish is in discussion with the Government regarding support in funding the ongoing drainage issues around the parish, which is inhibiting housing developments.**