

Appendix 2

Questions — Financial oversight of the Parish

- 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 Parish's budget (otherwise known as the Estimates) is put together by Parish Hall staff based on known and/or expected income and expenditure for the forthcoming year, and with input from the Connétable, Procureurs, Roads Committee and any others who have accountability for Parish expenditure. In addition to the Estimates, amounts may be allocated for specific purposes by virtue of a transfer from the General Reserve (or a transfer between reserves). Responsibility for the Estimates is ultimately the Connétable's, in conjunction with the Procureurs. The Estimates and proposed transfers between reserves are scrutinised by the Connétable's Accounts Committee and are then submitted for approval to a Parish Assembly. During the course of the year, funds will be spent in accordance with the Estimates or drawn down from specific reserves.

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

The decision on allocation ultimately rests with the Connetable and Procureurs, though they would usually seek input from Parish officials.

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

Prioritisation, having discussed priorities with Parish officials.

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

The bulk of funds are spent on running the parish hall (to provide the services we are required to provide), emptying bins and repairing roads. All of these benefit parishioners and are the primary functions of the Parish.

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

The Parish Assembly approves (or otherwise) the Connetable's Estimates and proposed transfers between reserves. It is possible for the Parish Assembly to decide not to permit some item of proposed expenditure or a proposed transfer from the General Reserve.

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

Government strategies, to the extent they are communicated to us, are completely incidental to the Parish activities very unlikely, in themselves, to feature in the consideration of fund allocation.

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)?

The day to day operations of the Parish are our primary focus. The items you identify are either extremely incidental to, or already embedded in, our core activities.

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

No

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

We have never encountered a situation where coordination with government has been required, nor has any approach been received from government seeking coordination.

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?

Any overlaps with government policy are so incidental that there is no requirement for a policy, whether formal or informal.

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

Not specifically, usually they would be sufficiently self-evident.

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?

The Parish supports youth activities and activities for the elderly and budgets for these in the Estimates.

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

Through periodic financial reporting.

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

Yes, audited by a firm of auditors.

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

Any surplus in a year is automatically credited to the General Reserve

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

No specific types. Most expenditure is on a 'needs must' basis

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

Unless the Connetable has been granted discretion to allocate such funds, their allocation would typically be approved (or otherwise) at a Parish Assembly having been put forward in the first instance by the Connetable. Parishioners would be able to put forward their own propositions for the allocation of such funds.

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?

Dealt with at a Parish Assembly – which is all the transparency that's required.

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

In the Minutes

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

At a subsequent Parish Assembly – but they would have missed the boat by then.

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

Conditions are not generally applied to the relatively small donations or grants made by the Parish.

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

Youth project funding – the Parish pays £20k towards this with the balance of cost being met by GoJ.