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Corporate Management Committee

Thursday, 12 December 2024 at 7.30 pm

Council Chamber - Civic Centre

Supplementary Agenda

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2. Minutes	To Follow
To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 November 2024 (Appendix 'A').	
7. In Principle Decision to Dispose of the Egham Hythe Centre	2 - 7
8. Grant Funding Request for St Paul's Church, Egham Hythe	8 - 15

Report title	Disposal of Egham Hythe Centre
Report author	Darren Williams, Corporate Head of Community Services
Department	Community Services
Exempt?	No

Purpose of report:

- To resolve

Synopsis of report:

The future use of Egham Hythe Centre has been a focus of consideration within the Community Services Service Area Plan for the past three years. Discussions were previously held via the (now ceased) Health and Wellbeing Member Working Group relating to an idea for a hub model of service delivery, as a replacement for the current offer of hireable community space. Included within the concept of a hub, was improved health infrastructure. This primarily reflected a larger, improved primary care facility, replacing the current surgery, located in a portacabin at the rear of Egham Hythe Centre.

Since this time, work has continued, however discussions with partners on possible future opportunities have been slow, whilst the financial position of the Council, and the priority of addressing this, has resulted in officers having to consider the most viable option for the delivery of any future project/facility, involving Egham Hythe Centre.

This report provides a summary of the point to which discussions have reached, outlines the potential opportunity that is available to the Council in relation to Egham Hythe, and seeks a decision from Members, as to whether they support the potential disposal of Egham Hythe Centre, and therefore, for officers to continue negotiations with PRIME PLC, as intended purchaser.

Recommendation(s):

- 1. Members agree in principle to the sale/disposal of Egham Hythe Centre and agree to the continuation of formal discussions regarding the potential sale of Egham Hythe Centre, with PRIME PLC, and working with NHS partners**

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 The future use of Egham Hythe Centre has been a focus of consideration within the Community Services Service Area Plan for the past three years, with discussions held via the now ceased Health and Wellbeing Member Working Group relating to a

hub model of service delivery, as a replacement for the current offer of hireable community space.

- 1.2 Included within the concept of a hub, was improved health infrastructure, primarily, a larger, improved primary care facility, replacing the current surgery, located in a portacabin at the rear of Egham Hythe Centre.
- 1.3 During the period that has passed, progress in realising a concrete plan for the use of Egham Hythe Centre has been slow, for several reasons, however more recently progress has been made by officers in discussion with NHS partners on the viability of enhanced facilities in Egham Hythe ward, with the Hythe Centre at the centre of this opportunity.
- 1.4 The financial position of the Council has meant that whilst different options for possible delivery of a community hub have been considered, the Council is not in a position to afford to deliver enhanced facilities within current building ownership arrangements, with a lease to NHS partners, due to the affordability of ongoing maintenance of the building, decarbonisation of the building and also the required works and fit out costs to provide the shell of enhanced primary care facilities. As a result, this report outlines the discussions to date in the context of the potential sale of Egham Hythe Centre.

2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

- 2.1 In setting the current Corporate Business Plan and associated strategies, in 2021, action plans were developed that form the basis of Service Area Plans within each of the business units. Since 2021, included within the Community Services Service Area Plan, which links primarily with the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, has been the objective titled "Egham Hythe Centre Community Hub – Viability" (HWB022). The detail of the objective as included within the service area plan was *"to support work relating to determining the viability of a community hub at Egham Hythe Centre, working in partnership with Egham Hythe GP practice."*
- 2.2 Work relating to this objective has been slow since the identification of this as an objective for the Council, for a number of reasons, including, the variety of NHS partners that have been engaged with over the project, and the lack of one confirmed strategic position or lead for any discussions (until now), changing priorities within the Council affecting resource availability to take forward a major project, and most recently, the change in priority relating to Council finances, resulting in a change of possible approach relating to the above objective.
- 2.3 However, over the past year discussions have been able to be restarted, initially through the North West Surrey Alliance Property Strategy Group, looking at future requirements for facilities across north west Surrey. This strategic work stream focuses on both the replacement of older/inadequate facilities used by NHS services currently, and future facilities as enablers to their Integrated Neighbourhood Teams model and the intention to move to delivery of services within communities.
- 2.4 Part of these considerations have included the GP practice at Egham Hythe, currently located behind Egham Hythe Centre, in a portacabin building that is widely accepted as being insufficient in size and quality, to deliver the current and future requirements of Primary Care.

- 2.5 Given the long-established objective of the Council, discussions exploring the art of the possible, have been held relating to Egham Hythe Centre with the place lead for the NW Surrey Alliance, the Partners at Egham Hythe Practice and PRIME PLC, property partners of the North West Surrey Health Alliance, to discuss opportunities to enhance facilities in Egham Hythe.
- 2.6 A thorough review of options for the use of Egham Hythe Centre has been conducted. It is clear that retaining the asset is not a viable option. The most practical, cost-effective and sustainable approach identified is through the sale of Egham Hythe Centre, for the delivery of health services, and other services for the community.
- 2.7 Other options have been considered, including the Council retaining ownership of the building and leasing space to NHS/Egham Hythe Practice, amongst them. This was the initial concept worked up by officers across Community Services and Assets & Regeneration previously, which was discussed with initial design ideas, at meetings of the former Health and Wellbeing Member Working Party.
- 2.8 However, this approach is discounted now, due to its financial viability, specifically the level of significant investment that would be required by the Council in the maintenance and upgrading of the building (including decarbonisation), and the fit out of the building for future use by NHS services, which was understood to be a liability of the Council in such a model. This was unaffordable against the upfront expenditure requirements of the Council, and the length of time it would likely take for the Council to realise a financial return on the investment made.
- 2.9 Building on positive discussions to date, it is now essential to progress towards a final determination regarding the viability and willingness of PRIME PLC, property partners of the North West Surrey Alliance to purchase the Egham Hythe Centre and the Council's readiness to sell the asset in line with the Council Asset Management Strategy. This report is presented to members seeking their support for officers to progress toward the potential sale of the Egham Hythe Centre
- 2.10 Officers recognise that Members would require greater information than this report provides, to make a final decision as to whether they agree to selling the Council's asset, and therefore at this stage support for the overarching principle of divesting of Egham Hythe Centre is sought. This will allow for continued dialogue and negotiation with PRIME PLC, the intended purchaser of the property, together with associated NHS partners.
- 2.11 Should discussions establish that a sale of the asset is a suitable way forward for all parties, a further report, providing full detail on the conditions, valuations and impact of the sale will be brought to members for a final decision to be made. A summary of intended use by NHS partners, given the focus on retaining the use of the asset, even in the event of its sale, for wider community benefit in Egham Hythe would also be provided.
- 2.12 The potential implications of selling Egham Hythe Centre for both the Council and the community have been identified and are being actively reviewed by officers. These include:
- The potential loss of a business continuity site in the event of a significant issue with the Civic Centre
 - The loss of disaster recovery site for Community Alarm monitoring functions

- Reduced community space for Egham Hythe and the wider borough
- The loss of a rest centre or evacuation site in the event of a borough emergency
- The need to identify a replacement venue for polling stations in Egham Hythe

These implications along with proposed mitigation measures will need to be fully addressed in any future committee report regarding the potential sale of the asset. This would follow further discussions with PRIME to determine the viability of such a sale

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 In relation to Egham Hythe Centre, the Empowering Communities Strategy committed the Council to reviewing its community assets and to optimise usage to meet a variety of community needs and interests. The review of Egham Hythe Centre and the potential to repurpose the building to create enhanced primary care facilities, meets this action.
- 3.2 The Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out the priority of supporting healthy communities, and the potential opportunity in relation to Egham Hythe Centre, supports this priority.
- 3.3 The work to date, relating to Egham Hythe Centre, is included as an objective in the Community Services Service Area Plan, whilst as part of the corporate service review programme, the future use of Egham Hythe Centre would be included within the review of community buildings owned by the Council.
- 3.4 Any potential sale would follow the principles outlined in the Asset Management Strategy 2023-2028

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The current capital programme as set out in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) reported to this committee in October shows that Capital Receipts are due to run out in 2027/28 with only £2m of usable receipts in hand at the start of that year. The generation of new capital receipts are limited to sales of non-investment property assets and cannot be guaranteed. There are currently no such asset sales in the capital programme and the potential sale of Egham Hythe Centre would produce a capital receipt to help fund future capital projects.
- 4.2 No formal decisions have been made regarding any potential sale of this site and therefore no capital receipts, or potential revenue savings have been included in the MTFS. If members agree to the in-principle sale of this site all financial implications relating to this will be included in a future report to committee.
- 4.3 This will include detail relating to the valuation of the asset and the viability of the proposed scheme.

Human Resource Implications

- 5.1 The workforce implications of selling a council building are associate with those employees who work from this base or whose work is diminished or changed because of the building being sold. Should the proposal to sell the property be approved the

change affecting employees would need to be scoped and formally consulted on; with the employees affected and with the Council's recognised Trade Union, UNISON. Specific details of how the change would affect individual employees is not at this stage known, once established the consultation process would be managed in accordance with the Council's Employment Stability Policy.

- 5.2 Informal briefings have been undertaken with directly affected employees ahead of this report being published to ensure that employees are aware of the potential considerations of the sale of the property and the potential for change.
- 5.3 The recognised Trade Union, UNISON has been written to, to advise of the potential for change relating to the workforce that support the centre.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 Local authorities are given powers under section 123 Local Government Act 1972 (LGA 1972) to dispose of land in any manner they wish, including sale of their freehold interest, granting a lease, or assigning any unexpired term on a lease, and the granting of easements. The only constraint is that a disposal must be for the best consideration reasonably obtainable (except in the case of short tenancies), unless the Secretary of State consents to the disposal.
- 6.2 The purpose of section 123 LGA 1972 is to ensure, so far as reasonably possible, that public assets are not sold by public authorities at an undervalue, save, if at all, with the consent, general or specific, of the Secretary of State.

7. Equality implications

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment would need to be undertaken, in relation to the sale of Egham Hythe Centre. This would be presented as part of a further report, should members be asked to determine whether to proceed with the sale of the asset.

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 The potential use of Egham Hythe Centre to provide much needed replacement health facilities to the local community offers significant local benefit. The divestment of the asset by the Council reduces on-going financial commitments to the Council in terms of maintenance and repair, utility costs and other building costs. The potential loss of community space may be mitigated through securing this need elsewhere and / or through the possible continued use of part of the centre as a hireable community venue. This will continue to be explored as part of the project, engaging with regular hirers at an appropriate time
- 8.2 Future reporting will cover the conditionality of the sale to ensure that the building is retained primarily for health use.

9. Environmental implications

- 9.1 Any environmental implications will be fully explored and reported to members as part of the future report once the proposal is fully developed.

10. Consultation

10.1 PRIME will carry out appropriate community consultation as part of any necessary planning application. As mentioned in section 5.0, consultation with Runnymede staff will also be undertaken in line with Council policy, as the proposals are developed.

11. Timetable for Implementation

11.1 There is no agreed timetable for the sale of Egham Hythe Centre, however, PRIME PLC and officers are keen to continue with discussions and associated work, to determine whether a sale/purchase of the property is viable. Clearly there are dependencies on both PRIME and the NHS and it is therefore difficult to set out a clear timescale at this time. A further report to committee will be brought forward in due course for consideration regarding any final decision on the sale of the property.

12 Conclusions

12.1 This report summarises the work that has been undertaken to date, to fulfil the objective set as part of the Corporate Business Plan and associated Community Services Service Area Plan, to determine the future use of Egham Hythe Centre to realise improved NHS facilities, in particular Primary Care facilities, to the benefit of residents of Egham Hythe.

12.2 Members are asked to consider the potential sale of Egham Hythe as a viable means to realise long-term benefits for residents through enhanced services and facilities. This report seeks member approval for officers to continue to work with PRIME, and report back to committee with full details should it prove that a sale for the purpose of delivering improved primary care from the site be possible.

Report title	Grant Funding Request – St Paul’s Church, Egham Hythe
Report author	Darren Williams, Corporate Head of Community Services
Department	Community Services
Exempt?	No

Purpose of report:

- To resolve

Synopsis of report:

This report details a request for financial support from St Pauls Church, located in Egham Hythe ward, in the form of “backstop” grant funding, to secure funding agreed in principle by Surrey County Council, via its Your Fund Surrey scheme.

The project focuses on providing enhanced facilities at the church site, to enable the continued delivery of existing projects and to support the delivery of new community initiatives aimed at supporting families, young people, and households more broadly, in Egham Hythe ward. With Your Fund Surrey having approved grant funding totalling 85% of the full project cost, St Pauls Church are currently seeking opportunities to secure the remaining 15% required and have approached the Council for support to enable delivery of this community infrastructure project.

Recommendation(s):

1. Members are asked whether they wish to approve the provision of “backstop” one-off grant funding to St Pauls Church, totalling £154,206, as a maximum contribution to match funding, if required, in relation to the application submitted to Your Fund Surrey.

If so,

2. Members approve a capital estimate in the sum of £154,206 to provide the one-off grant to St Pauls Church to be funded from usable capital receipts.

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 A request for grant funding from St Paul’s Church, in Egham Hythe, has been received by the Council.
- 1.2 The church has successfully (subject to final approval) been awarded grant funding from the Your Fund Surrey Scheme delivered by Surrey County Council. However, with the grant award being only 85% of the total required, the church has written to the

Council requesting support for their project, through the provision of a “backstop” grant from the Council, totalling £154,206.

- 1.3 A backstop arrangement would see the Council underwrite the securing of remaining funding required, to enable the agreements between Your Fund Surrey and St Paul’s Church to continue, with assurance of access to the required funds.
- 1.4 The church will seek alternative funding sources for the remaining sum and if successful in securing this, the Council will not be required to provide any grant funding. However, if some or all of the funding cannot be secured, a grant of up to £154,206 would be awarded by the Council.
- 1.5 The project, totalling over one million pounds, is to create new facilities at the church site, which will allow for the continuation and expansion of a range of services to the community, whilst also creating additional space and capacity for new community initiatives. Such community projects are available to all residents and not only members of the church.

2 Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

- 2.1 St Paul’s Church has long been an important local institution in Egham Hythe, historically and primarily through its traditional and primary function as a Christian church, and place of worship.
- 2.2 However, as is the case with most places of worship across all faiths, the commitment and ambition of St Paul’s Church to support the local community has not been limited to religious activity, or to only supporting members of the Church.
- 2.3 It is the activity of the Church in support of the local community that resulted in consideration being given to making an application to Your Fund Surrey, to enhance its community facilities, in 2024. As part of this application via the Your Fund Surrey website, officers provided comments of support to the project. However, this was based on full funding potentially being awarded by Surrey County Council, with other grant funding if required, and without the knowledge that such a request for support would subsequently be received by the Council.
- 2.4 Currently, St Paul’s Church provides a range of services to the Egham Hythe community, and in some cases beyond the ward boundaries. These include baby and toddler groups, youth services for year 7’s from neighbouring Magna Carta school, tea and chat meetings, as host venue for the Runnymede Foodbank etc. Egham Hythe is identified as one of the lowest ranked areas of the borough in the indices of multiple deprivation, and services such as those provided are of added importance within the community.
- 2.5 The success and demand for existing services, and the ambition of the church to provide additional services, has resulted in an application being submitted to Your Fund Surrey, for funding totalling the full project cost of £1,028,041. With this funding, St Paul’s would look to create additional community space at the church site, specifically building an extension to improve toilet facilities, a new kitchen for providing cooked food and catering for large events in the church, a small café and meeting space, and improved access into the building. Further information relating to the project, including design plans can be found at <https://www.speh.org.uk/community-2/facilities-project/>

- 2.6 In November 2024, St Pauls Church were notified of the intention to be awarded the sum of £873,835. This grant award is subject to final approval by Surrey County Council, to be determined by the end of 2024.
- 2.7 As a result, to realise the funding from Surrey County Council, St Pauls Church is required to secure the outstanding amount of £154,206. However, given the lead times in securing grant funding of this amount from charitable trusts, should such funding opportunities be available, the project would enter a period of uncertainty relating to its viability.
- 2.8 St Paul's Church have therefore approached the Council, requesting that the Council become a "backstop" to their Your Fund Surrey application, by agreeing to fund the outstanding balance, if this cannot be secured through other grant funding sources applied to. Such an arrangement would enable St Paul's Church to be able to accept the grant funding from Surrey County Council and proceed with this important community project.
- 2.9 This would in principle mean that in the event funding is secured by St Paul's Church, there would be no financial implications to the Council. However, given there is no guarantee of alternative funding, members are asked to consider the report in the context of the Council potentially awarding a grant totalling £154,206.
- 2.10 At a time of financial challenge for the Council, and a prioritisation of identifying and delivering savings and efficiencies, a request for grant funding of this level, would not normally be considered, however given the report on this committee agenda relating to Egham Hythe Centre, officers felt it prudent to give members the opportunity to consider the request, given the potential for the project at St Paul's Church to mitigate some of the implications highlighted in that report.
- 2.11 There are three potential impacts a successful project at St Paul's Church could assist to address. These include the impact of loss of hireable space to the community, by offering an alternative/replacement venue locally for some of the hirers of the Hythe Centre, the potential loss of a building to be used in support of response to borough emergencies, where in the event of any grant funding award the Council may want to add a condition relating to access to the property for use in the event of a borough emergency. Finally, the elections team have advised that the loss of Egham Hythe Centre as a polling station would leave the Council with no identified alternative in Egham Hythe Ward, there would be an opportunity to include this as a condition of any agreement with St Paul's Church.
- 2.12 Should members agree to providing backstop funding to St Paul's Church, this will enable the church to move forward with its project, and to pursue alternative grant funding with greater confidence having been able to fulfil the requirements of Your Fund Surrey and therefore secure the grant funding awarded. Should members not agree to providing the backstop funding, whilst the project and aspirations of the church will likely continue, there is the greater risk of being unable to secure the 85% funding award from Your Fund Surrey, meaning that the project potentially will be unviable in the future.

3 Policy framework implications

- 3.1 The Councils' Corporate Business Plan, and Empowering Communities Strategy outlines how the Council will work to "support and nurture the development of community initiatives and encourage communities which lack key facilities to form

groups to work on community initiatives and self-help schemes". Whilst currently, there is an alternative community building in the ward, for the reasons outlined in the report, the availability of such facilities may change in the future.

- 3.2 The Empowering Communities Strategy also sets out an action to establish a Runnymede Local Initiatives Fund, with the intention, in part, to facilitate access to other sources of funding. Whilst such a fund does not exist and there is no budgetary provision for this purpose, should members decide to award grant funding to St Paul's Church, the council would be meeting this objective by facilitating access to a sizeable grant from Your Fund Surrey.

4 Resource implications/Value for Money

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Council's Grant Criteria and Funding Opportunities Guide states the following:

Grant aid will not be given as a matter of course for repair, improvement, or other works to places of religious worship, but the Council may fund such bodies at its discretion if it is satisfied that:

- a. the project for which grant aid is sought is of benefit to the wider local community; and
- b. insufficient funds are available from the bodies' own resources and such other grant aid as it has secured to allow the project to proceed.

- 4.2 In order to apply for grant the Church have been asked to complete a Grant Aid application form which will provide Members and Officers with more information about the request and the community it will serve. This forms part of the business case for this opportunity.

- 4.3 Given the Council's current financial situation and the low level of capital receipts the prioritisation criteria set out in the approved Capital Strategy should be taken into consideration before any such decision is made. The prioritisation methodology means that schemes are evaluated according to the agreed corporate criteria in terms of the following categories to give an order of priority. Within each priority ranking each "bullet point" ranks higher than the one below it.

Priority 1

- Schemes essential and to the extent necessary to comply with statutory obligations, including Health and Safety.
- Schemes for which there is a contractual commitment to another party.
- Schemes necessary to avoid a service breakdown.
- Schemes which a business plan demonstrates to be self-financing.
- Schemes which will permit future savings or increased efficiency.

Priority 2

- Schemes necessary to maintain an existing asset.
- Schemes necessary to maintain required standards of service.
- Schemes to meet urgent established need.

Priority 3

- Schemes to permit the development of services in accordance with approved policies.

Priority 4

- Schemes representing other desirable developments within services
- Schemes to meet emerging needs and/or demands emanating from consultation, benchmarking or Best Value exercises.

4.4 This grant falls under the prioritisation of a priority 3 or 4 which means that, given the Council's low level of capital receipts this scheme could potentially prevent a future higher priority scheme from being delivered

4.5 The Current Capital Programme includes a budget of £20,000 a year for capital grants, of which £1,500 is set aside for the Runnymede District Scouts, leaving £18,500 available. There is no specific budget provision for the award of such a large grant as proposed in this report and therefore, additional funding of a £135,706 would be required to make up a supplementary capital estimate in the sum of £154,206 which will need to be approved if members wish to pursue this.

Risks Identified

4.6 Capital grants are funded from capital receipts and as mentioned above, the Council has limited Capital Receipts with no current plans to sell any assets to generate new ones. Agreeing to this proposal will mean that existing receipts will run out sooner if new receipts cannot be found or existing potential ones are not delivered.

5 Legal implications

5.1 The Council must have a legal power or duty before it can incur any expenditure. Councils have a number of powers which enable them to make grants to local organisations including:

- Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976 confers wide powers on a council concerning recreation facilities, whether inside or outside its area, including powers to provide grants to others who provide such facilities.
- Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables a council to contribute to expenses associated with dancing, the theatre, bands, knowledge and practice of arts and crafts and associated refreshments, programmes, and advertising.
- The Local Government Act 1972, Section 142 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 confers wide powers on councils to make grants to advice and assistance agencies.
- Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows councils to make grants to voluntary bodies where no specific grant-making power exists in other legislation. Such grants are subject to additional controls including expenditure limits set by the Secretary of State and based on the number of electors in the council area. Grants made under this power must be recorded by separate account. The council must also be satisfied that the expenditure is proportional to the benefit to the council area.
- Powers conferred to councils under the 'General power of Competence' set out in section 1 Localism Act 2011 which enables councils to do things that others do, such as lending money..

- 5.2 If the Council were minded approving this request for grant funding it could be made subject to conditions. Those conditions could include a requirement that the applicant seek to secure the funding required from other sources and provide evidence to the Council of the attempts which have been made. If such a condition were to be imposed the Council would require the applicant to demonstrate that applications had been made to bodies who could provide the same level of funding as being sought from the Council whether solely or in combination. By this the Council might expect to see applications have been made for the total amount from one body or from two bodies in combination. This would demonstrate the Council is a provider of funding as a last resort rather than being the only body approached for assistance.
- 5.3 The Council may also wish to impose conditions regarding the use of any premises funded by its financial assistance. Such conditions from ensuring that such facilities are open to as a wide a range of local groups as possible, thereby ensuring that no claims can be made that the funding has merely benefited the existing members of the church. The Council may wish to consider imposing a condition that the premises are not used for promoting political organisations. Such a condition would be designed to avoid the allegation that public funds are being used for political purposes. Clearly any such conditions will have to be reasonable, not contravene any legal provisions and unreasonably restrict the ability of the church to use the premises for purposes they had intended to use them for.

6 Equality implications

- 6.1 There are no equality implications relating to the request for funding to be considered, however members are advised that the request for funding has been received outside of an open grant application process.

7 Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications linked to this report, where grant funding is requested. The project itself has environmental implications; however, these fall outside the remit of officers.

8 Other implications

None identified

9 Appendices

- Appendix A – Email request for funding from St Paul's Church

From: [REDACTED]

Sent on: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 1:26:18 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] St Paul's Church, Egham Hythe.

CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Runnymede Borough Council,

I am writing from St Paul's Church in Egham Hythe who, as you will be aware, have applied to Your Fund Surrey, a Surrey County Council Fund for our proposed project to improve and extend the community space which the church can offer.

You kindly wrote a supporting letter for the project during the application stage, and we can evidence the overwhelming support which the project has received locally. In recent weeks, we have had communication from Surrey County Council that we now need to match fund 15% of the project (£154,206 of a total £1,028,041) to secure consideration at cabinet for the remaining 85% of the grant. In order to progress a decision by cabinet, we are writing today to request a backstop grant consideration from Runnymede Borough Council for 15% of the value of the project. Upon cabinet approval, we anticipate that the project would be in a very favourable position to secure additional grant funding towards the shortfall total, and we have identified a number of grant making bodies to which we are eligible to apply to over the next 6 months.

Thank for any consideration to this project. I attach the link to our website which details the project <https://www.speh.org.uk/community-2/facilities-project/> , and please do be in touch if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Josh Cleaver

Curate

St Paul's, Egham Hythe

