

PARISH PARTNERSHIP FUND - REVIEW OF CRITERIA - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

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1. Purpose

1.1 To report on the responses received from Local Councils to the consultation document on the review of the criteria to the Parish Partnership Fund.

1.2 In the light of the responses received from Local Councils, to report on Milton Keynes Council's draft proposals for changes to the criteria.

2. Summary

2.1 The Parish Partnership Fund has now been in operation for three years. At the meeting of the Consultative Assembly in June 1999 it was noted that the criteria for 1999/2000 would be the same as for the previous year, but that the criteria for future years would be subject to further consultation during this financial year.

2.2 A consultation document was sent out with the July issue of the Parish and Neighbourhood Newsletter. The document set out a variety of proposals concerned with the Fund and its application and gave details of grants made in previous years and previous criteria that had been adopted.

2.3 Local Councils were invited to comment on the consultation document. Details of the responses received to date are set out in **Annex A** to this report.

2.4 In the light of the responses received, the Council has reviewed its draft proposals for revised criteria for the Parish Partnership Fund. The revised proposals are set out in **Annex B** this report.

2.5 In particular, the Assembly should note that next year will be a year of transition. It is proposed that the timetable for consideration of applications from the Parish Partnership Fund 2001/02 will change (see item 9 of Annex B), with applications being determined in the previous financial year (January 2001). This will enable Local Councils an opportunity

to incorporate their contribution in their budgets. In order to ensure that Parish Councils are aware of the decisions in respect of 2000/01 before submitting bids for 2001/02, it is proposed that applications for grants from the 2000/01 Fund will be invited slightly earlier than in previous years with Local Councils being informed of the grants made in early September 2000.

- 2.6 The Assembly is invited to comment on the revised proposals. All Local Councils will then be consulted on the revised proposals. Subject to consideration of any comments received, it is intended that the new scheme will be finalised in the Spring of next year and will be implemented with effect from August 2000 in respect of 2001/02 Fund.

3. **Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Consultative Assembly is invited to consider responses received to date on the consultation document and to comment upon the revised proposals.

Background Papers: Application Forms from Local Councils for grants from the Parish Partnership Fund 1999/2000