

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 budget and agreeing the Parish rate. In St Brelade, the rates are set annually at a Parish Assembly in July.
2. How are different spending needs prioritised within the parish when allocating funds?
Please see response 1 above.
3. Are there specific criteria or guidelines used to assess which projects or initiatives receive funding
Please see response 1 above.
4. How does the parish ensure that funds are allocated in a way that benefits parishioners?
Please see response 1 above.
5. What role does the Parish Assembly play in the decision-making process for fund allocation?
Please see response 1 above.
6. Do the Procureurs consider government strategies when making decisions about fund allocation? If so, which strategies are taken into account?
Allocations of funds are made in accordance with decisions made at the annual Parish Assembly in July. The Procureurs do not consider government strategies and they do not decide on 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)?
Whilst it may be a future intention that procurers become more involved in aligning funding with objectives/goals of the government, this is not currently, the case. Such decisions, typically, would rest with the Connétable.
8. Have there been any instances when government priorities or policies have directly influenced how parish funds are allocated?
Not to our knowledge, it is possible that the Connétable is better positioned to respond to this question.

9. How do the Procureurs coordinate with the government when their priorities or policies overlap with parish spending?
Procureurs would not, ordinarily, coordinate with government. Such liaison would, typically, rest with 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?
See answer to 9 above.
11. Do the Procureurs assess the potential impact of funded projects on the local community?
Yes, they do but not in isolation of other Parish officials, such as the Connétable. Furthermore, decisions made to fund local community projects are, usually, made at the forum of the Parish Assembly.
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?
Procureurs do not allocate funds. Such decisions are made at the Parish Assembly.
13. How do the Procureurs monitor and track the spending of allocated funds to ensure accountability and prevent overspending or misallocation?
Such oversight would take place at the Senior Management meeting, which is held, regularly, every four to six weeks. The Senior Management team comprises of the Connétable, two Procureurs, the Parish Secretary and the Financial Controller.
14. Are there any external audits or reviews of the parish's finances to ensure transparency and responsible management of public funds?
Yes, there is an external annual audit of the Parish's accounts undertaken by a firm of Chartered Accountants.
15. How do the Procureurs/parishes manage any surplus or deficit funds?
In the week preceding the annual Parish Assembly where the budget is set for the forthcoming financial year, the Parish Accounts Committee meet to deliberate the draft financial statements. At this meeting, proposals are made for budgets for the following financial year. Usually, the managing of surplus or deficits takes place at the Accounts Committee and Parish Assembly meetings; however, it is not unprecedented to bring a matter (e.g. of an overspend) before a Parish Assembly outside of the annual rate setting process.

16. What types of projects or initiatives typically receive the most funding?
Refuse collection and the maintenance of properties (including roads) for which the Parish has responsibility.
17. How does the parish handle requests for funding from local organisations or groups, and what criteria are used to assess these requests?
Decisions regarding donations to local charities or organisations are made at the Parish Assembly in July, i.e. when the Parish Rate is set. The Parish would demand sight of the correct financial statements of any organisations or groups prior to making an assessment of whether a distribution is warranted.
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?
See response at 17 above.
19. How are decisions communicated to parishioners of how their contributions are being used?
Donations are referred to and itemised in the Parish's annual accounts.
20. Is there a mechanism for parishioners to raise concerns or questions about fund allocation decisions?
Concerns may be raised either directly to the Connétable, or at the Parish Assembly.
21. How does the parish ensure that allocated funds are spent as intended, and are there any measures in place to prevent misuse
Monitoring of Parish spending takes place at the Senior Management meeting. Furthermore, the annual audit typically involves an auditor examining the controlled environment in which the Parish is operating.
22. Is there any joint funding or shared investment in projects between the parish and the government? If so, can you provide some examples?
Not that we are aware of.

Re: Questionnaire - Financial Oversight of the Parish

Please find attached the questionnaire circulated to the parish Procureurs in June duly completed by Julian Bernstein and me, the two Procureurs of St Brelade. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us a small amount of additional time to carefully consider the questions prior to our submission of the questionnaire.

As an accompaniment to the completed questionnaire, Julian and I would like to offer the following additional commentary which we believe accords a degree of context as to why some of our responses may appear rather minimalistic.

Julian and I are both in our respective first terms of office as Procureurs. Although neither of us have been provided with any formal training in the role of a Procureur we have immersed ourselves in what we believe are the most important aspects of acting as a quasi public trustee, i.e. representing the Parish in looking after the property of the Parish.

We both look forward to attending the presentation/workshop on 18 September at 7.00pm. At this gathering we hope to glean from other attendees how the role of Procureur is discharged in the other Parishes.

With kind regards

Chris Cooke