



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Robert King,
Cllr Linda Gillham,
Cllr Steve Ringham
Cllr Don Whyte
Runnymede Borough Council
Runnymede Civic Centre
Station Road
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 2AH

Our reference: BS34648

8 January 2025

Dear Cllrs King, Gillham, Ringham and Whyte,

Re: Guildford Street, Chertsey – Shared Prosperity Fund 2023

I write regarding the recent decision by your administration to request the diversion of funding from the Council's successful Shared Prosperity Fund Bid in 2022, which was earmarked for improvements to Guildford Street in Chertsey, in favour of alternative projects in Egham.

I was extremely disappointed to hear of this decision and I write to ask that this is reconsidered, especially given there appears to have been no consultation publicly or with key stakeholders involved in the original bid, including myself. I am incredibly disappointed that following the change of leadership of the Council to a Labour led coalition Runnymede Council has now turned its back on Chertsey.

While I appreciate that the works due in Guildford Street will incur some ongoing maintenance costs, and that the deadline for spending this funding is approaching this year, it is not right that these funds are diverted to another part of the Borough. Both Egham and Addlestone have benefited from multi-million pound council led regeneration projects in recent years, and the same cannot be said for Chertsey.

Residents have rightly been campaigning for similar support and investment in Chertsey, and these funds were a small step towards that. You will be aware of the petition that has been set up by local residents, which I have signed, and expresses the strength of local feeling on this issue.

I hope you will reconsider and show your support for Chertsey.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ben Spencer MP
Runnymede and Weybridge