



Committee and date
Bowbrook, Copthorne and
Radbrook Local Joint Committee

6 July 2010

7.00 pm

Item/Paper

9

Public

DECISION REPORT – GRANT APPLICATIONS

Responsible Officer Nick Taylor

Email: nick.taylor@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01743 252502

Summary

This report considers two applications for grant funding submitted to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee (LJC) for 2009/10.

A total of £24,250 remained in the budget from 2009/10 and a further £38,000 has been devolved to the committee for the current 2010/11 year to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC. At the last meeting, grants totalling £3,627 were awarded. At the present time, therefore, available funds stand at £58,623.

The two applications now under consideration are for:

- £2,876.25 for refurbishment of the Shorncliffe Drive BMX track, submitted by the Gains Park and Radbrook Youth Clubs;
- £4,800 for the provision of litter / dog mess bins, submitted by the Community Working Team.

Recommendations

It is recommended to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee that the following applications are approved:

- £2,876.25 to the Gains Park and Radbrook Youth clubs;
- £4,800 to the Community Working Team.

Background

1. From 1 April 2009 Shropshire Council created 28 Local Joint Committees to operate across the whole of Shropshire. These LJC's are legally constituted decision making committees of Shropshire Council.

2. The LJC for Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook has membership from Shropshire Council (3 members) and Shrewsbury Town Council (3 members) all with equal voting rights. Currently, 3 councillors represent the wards on both councils. In these circumstances, the 3 individuals each have 2 votes.
3. One of the main responsibilities of the LJC is to determine expenditure of the devolved budget. A budget of £38,000 has been made available to the LJC for the current financial year. £24,250 remained unallocated from the previous year's budget and has been carried forward, giving total available funds for 2010/11 of £62,250. So far in this financial year, grants totalling £3,627 have been allocated, leaving £58,623 to be spent. Expenditure against this budget is agreed by the Committee after consideration of decision reports. Each member has 2 votes, with decisions determined by a simple majority.

Purposes of the funding

4. The funding devolved to the LJC can be used for a number of different purposes over the year. At the present time, the Committee has not allocated funds to any specific purposes but has indicated that it will receive applications from local organisations for eligible purposes. Funding by the LJC must comply with the general Financial Rules for LJC's that are attached to this report. Applications must demonstrate compliance with the following criteria:
 - Expenditure must be consistent with achieving the aims, objectives and vision set out in Shropshire's Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council's Corporate Plans and local Neighbourhood or Parish Plans.
 - Expenditure must be for activity within the geographical area of the Local Joint Committee.
 - Expenditure must benefit the wider community and should not be used to fund a group which restricts membership based on views, beliefs etc. For example, it would not be appropriate to make a contribution to a religious group but a contribution to say, improvements to a church hall which is open for bookings from the wider community would be acceptable.
 - The budget must not be spent on mainstream council activities, but can be used to enhance mainstream activities.
 - The budget must not be a displacement of existing council funding. For example, a service cannot be reinstated from the local budget if the council has cut funding for it in the previous 3 years.
 - The budget should not be used to meet ongoing staffing costs of an organisation.

Decision-making procedure

5. The LJC elected Members will decide on applications for funding and their decisions will be taken in public, following the process below:
 - a written report by the Lead Officer, setting out the details of applications received and recommending a course of action;

- a brief verbal introduction to the applications, by the Lead Officer, at the meeting;
- questions by the elected Members of the officers and/or the applicants (if present);
- elected Members take the decision.

A slightly different process will need to be taken if there are fewer than three elected Members present, as that is the number required to form a quorum.

Application by the Gains Park and Radbrook Youth Clubs

6. The BMX track at Shorncliffe Drive was developed in 2002, following consultation with young people. This is a very popular venue, used by young people on a daily basis and the Cycle Shrewsbury BMX coach provides training from the site. Due to severe winter weather, the track is breaking up and becoming difficult to use. The project will refurbish the track, with partial tarmac surfacing, and clear up the surrounding area. At recent LJC meetings, young people highlighted the value of the facility and the need for repair. A quote for £4876.25 including VAT has been obtained and, if approved, the contractor will be able to complete the work by the start of the school holidays. The Sports Development budget is contributing £2,000 and so the LJC has been asked for £2876.25. This project meets the objectives and criteria for LJC funding and will meet a demonstrable community need and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

Application by the Community Working Team

7. The local councillors and the Community Regeneration Officer, in consultation with residents and local organisations, have identified dog mess and litter as a major cleanliness and health issue. It is proposed to provide 12 additional combined litter /dog mess bins across the LJC area: Bowbrook (5), Copthorne (2) and Radbrook (5). This is the optimum additional number that the council's dog warden and cleansing team can service at the present time. The cost is £400 per bin and so the total cost is £4,800. The council will fund the ongoing cost of emptying the bins and the dog warden will provide additional signage and patrols. The precise locations will be determined by the local councillors in the light of consultation with the community. This project meets the objectives and criteria for LJC funding and will meet a demonstrable community need and is, therefore, recommended for approval.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

1. Locality Working – Local Joint Committees Supplementary Report – Implementation Executive 19 March 2009.

Human Rights Act Appraisal

At this stage the recommendations are unlikely to result in any implications for the Human Rights Act.

Environmental Appraisal

Both of the projects would have a positive impact on the environment.

Risk Management Appraisal

The Council needs to address the risk of legal challenge to decisions through procedural or other errors. This has been carefully assessed. There are no risks specifically relating to the two applications.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Young people have attended an LJC meeting to express support for improvements to BMX facilities.
Local councillors and the Community Regeneration Officer have spoken to communities about litter and dog mess and the issue has been raised at a previous LJC meeting.

Cabinet Member

Gwilym Butler

Local Members

Peter Nutting, Peter Adams, Keith Roberts

Appendices

LJC Financial Procedure Rules