



Committee and date
Bowbrook, Copthorne and
Radbrook Local Joint Committee

17 February 2011

7.00 pm

Item/Paper

12

Public

DECISION REPORT – GRANT APPLICATIONS

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Summary

This report considers applications for grant funding submitted to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee (LJC) for 2010/11.

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. So far, grants totalling £28,453 have been awarded. At the present time, therefore, available funds stand at £33,797

The applications now under consideration are set out in the report, with details attached.

Recommendations

It is recommended to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee that the following decisions are made on the submitted applications:

- Radbrook Community Association - approval of £147 grant towards purchase of Boccia bowls and arranging three evenings of multi age activity at the Community Centre
- Shrewsbury Dial A Ride - approval of £1000 grant towards improvement of IT to make the service more efficient (applying to 10 LJC's in Shrewsbury area)
- Barnabas Centre - approval of £500 towards Cage Football system (applying to all of the Shrewsbury LJC's)
- Gains Park Community Centre-approval of £1800 towards an Architects structural survey and feasibility report.
- Meole Brace Scout and Guide Group-approval of £2284 towards refurbishing the Scout and Guide hut kitchen.
- Shrewsbury Town Council-approval for £3200 for 50% funding of four vehicle activated speeding signs.

TOTAL £8931

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 £28,453 have been allocated, leaving £33,797 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.

Applications under consideration

Applicant	Purpose of grant	Amount requested from BCR LJC	Comment
1. Radbrook Community Association	Purchase of Boccia bowls and arranging three evenings of multi age activity at the Community Centre	£147	Boccia Bowls is a sporting activity that can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities. This funding would enable this sport to be undertaken at Radbrook Community Centre and enable them to participate with other like minded groups across the town. <i>Suggest approval</i>
2. Shrewsbury Dial A Ride	Towards improvement of IT to make the service more efficient	£1,000	Application for £1000 made to 10 LJC's in the Shrewsbury area. This LJC area has the highest useage of the scheme in Shrewsbury. The funding would enable the scheme to be more effective in the deployment of its resources and provide a better service for its users. <i>Suggest approval.</i>

3. Barnabas Community Church	Towards a 'Cage Football' System to be available for use by community groups	£500	Shrewsbury Town Football Club are providing £3,000 and operational support and the project can now be delivered across the whole of Shrewsbury. Application made to all six Shrewsbury LJC's. Other LJC's have made conditional offers of £500 with the condition that the project should be delivered for at least three days on their area. <i>Suggest approval on condition that it can be deployed with the youth clubs in the Bowbrook and Radbrook areas and utilised at a fun day on Shorncliffe during a school holiday</i>
4. Gains Park Community Centre	Application to employ a Structural Engineer and an architect to do a structural survey to ensure the building is in a good condition and a feasibility report to identify the best use of the space available and what refurbishment would be required to make it viable	£2700	This work will enable the Community Centre to be revitalised and utilised by a far greater number of groups and local community members <i>Suggest approval</i>
5. Meole Brace Scout and Guide Group	Application to refurbish kitchen	£2284	The Scout and Guide Groups will be able to do a far greater number of activities in the hut with a new kitchen. It will also enable the Group to hire out facilities to provide revenue for its ongoing upkeep. <i>Suggest approval</i>
6. Vehicle Activated Signs	Application from the LJC to 50% fund vehicle activated signs with Shrewsbury Town Council	£3200	Concerns have been raised through many forums by local residents (including the community led planning

			<p>questionnaire) that vehicles travel at excessive speeds on certain local roads. Shrewsbury Town Council are prepared to take the lead for this initiative across the town and would pay for ongoing running and maintenance costs. The signs would be moved around the area to ensure maximum impact on raising driver awareness and reducing speed.</p> <p><i>Suggest approval</i></p>
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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

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 applications.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Cabinet Member

Gwilym Butler

Local Members

Peter Nutting, Peter Adams, Keith Roberts

Appendices