

## **LJC 11 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**Responsible Officer** Gwyn Bevan

Email: gwyn.bevan@shropshire.gov.uk@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 252482

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### **1. Summary**

This report considers two applications for grant funding submitted to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee (LJC) for 2011/12.

A total of £43,925.73 is available for funding for 2011/12, which includes an under spend from 2010/11.

The applications now under consideration are set out in the report.

### **2. Recommendations**

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

- (a) Shelton Cricket Club – Repair and renovate wicket covers and roller, and purchase tarpaulin for weather protection during matches. A LJC contribution of £1,650.00 towards a total cost of £2,150.00.
- (b) Café Connect, Radbrook Green – Replacement of worn out kitchen equipment. A LJC contribution of £800.00 towards a total cost £1,290.00.

## **REPORT**

### **3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

- 3.1 In determining these recommendations the Council has considered reputational risk and the course of action minimises this risk.
- 3.2 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 3.3 The proposals under consideration will improve the levels of community based and community driven activity in the LJC area.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 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. 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.

### **5. Background**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.

- 5.3 One of the main responsibilities of the LJC is to determine expenditure of the devolved budget. A budget of £13,300 has been made available to the LJC for the current financial year. £29,025.73 remained unallocated from the previous year's budget and has been carried forward, there is also an arts grant of £1,570.00, giving total available funds for 2011/12 of £43,895.73. 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.

## **6. Additional Information**

- 6.1 A summary of the applications has been compiled, including a needs and demand assessment:

### **6.1.1 Shelton Cricket Club**

This is a well established local sporting club. They have 2 senior teams playing in the top division of local cricket and 2 midweek teams, plus a thriving junior section giving the opportunity for all ages and abilities to get involved in cricket. This application is to repair and renovate their wicket covers and roller in order that they can maintain the quality of their wicket to play matches on. They are also seeking to purchase a large tarpaulin, which can be used on match days to quickly cover the wicket in the event of bad weather. These items will assist the club to maintain their facilities at the level required for competitive cricket. They are seeking £1,650.00 from a total cost of £2,150.00 and provide a lot of matched funding from members who give up their time to support and develop the club.

Need and demand – Many people from the LJC are interested in cricket, both as participants and spectators, and utilise the facilities provided by this club.

### **6.1.2 Café Connect**

This charitably run café within the Radbrook shopping centre has been in existence for about 8 years. It was felt that some form of community and social outreach was required in this area, particularly to support the growing elderly community. The café is very popular and caters for around 60 and 70 people per day, many of them elderly who have been to visit local amenities such as the doctor's surgery. The staff, who are all volunteers and members of the Trinity Church from Meole Brace, provide a valuable service for the community. Equipment (microwave, panini baking machine and plates) have become worn out and this application for £800.00 from a total cost of £1,290.00 is to replace this equipment.

Need and demand – This project was set up 8 years ago to address a need within the community and has gone from strength to strength and now also provides facilities for young people on a Tuesday evening.

## 7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The applications for funding were considered to be of benefit to the community, and the need and demand analysis indicated that each proposed scheme is required in that locality.

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
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Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12 – 2013/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2011.
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Locality Working Local Joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2010.
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LJC application forms for the projects listed
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<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b>
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Councillor Gwilym Butler
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<b>Local Member</b>
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Councillors Peter Adams, Peter Nutting and Keith Roberts
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<b>Appendices</b>
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None
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