



Committee and date
Bowbrook, Copthorne and
Radbrook Local Joint Committee

19th July 2012

7.00 p.m.

Item

12

Public

DECISION REPORT – APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

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Summary

This report considers applications for grant funding submitted to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee (LJC) for 2012/13.

After the last meeting on 16.2.12 £677 remained at the disposal of the Committee. The 2012/13 budget for the Committee has been set at £14,870. The Committee has £15,547 of funding at its disposal. The application now under consideration is set out in the report.

Recommendations

It is recommended to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee that the following decision is made on the submitted application:

1. The Bowbrook Allotment Community is embarking on a project called “Wise Watering” to make the site more sustainable and self-sufficient with regard to water usage. The project is to purchase guttering, piping and water butts to collect rainfall from members sheds and the communal buildings. This is a relatively new allotment site in the Town, however, it has developed very quickly and welcomes the local community and interested groups to visit. It has been recognised for its work both locally and nationally.

The total cost of the project is £1,750 and the allotment committee is seeking support of £850 from the LJC with the remaining £900 coming from member's contributions. This is a well-run group who provide a valuable facility for their members and the wider community. They have been in receipt of LJC funding in previous years and I would recommend that the LJC consider approval of this grant to assist them with their continued development.

Summary.

Budget available	£15,547
This application	£ 850

Remaining

£14,697

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 the Bowbrook , Copthorne and Radbrook area has three members all of which are both Shropshire County Councillors and Shrewsbury Town Councillors and hold equal voting rights. The Chairperson in consultation with the other Committee members and the Community Action Officer has a delegated authority to make decisions outside of publicised meetings if it is appropriate and timely to do so.
3. One of the main responsibilities of the LJC is to determine expenditure of the devolved budget. A budget of £15,547 remains for 2012/13. Expenditure against this budget is agreed by the Committee after consideration of decision reports with decisions determined by a simple majority.

Purposes of the funding

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

4. 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 Community Action Officer, setting out the details of applications received and recommending a course of action;
 - a brief verbal introduction to the applications, by the Community Action 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.

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
Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council Peter Adams, Peter Nutting, Keith Roberts
Appendices
None