



<u>Committee and date</u> Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley & Claverley Local Joint Committee 19th October 2011 7.00pm

<u>Item No</u> 7 Public
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2011/12 FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Responsible Officer Tom Brettell

e-mail: tom.brettell@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01746 713 209

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report considers the devolved funding allocated to the Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley & Claverley Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1st April 2011 up until 31st March 2012.

A total of £35,500 has been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for the 2011/12 financial year. In addition £2,930 has been allocated to the Committee from the apportionment of the Shropshire Community Arts Budget and a sum of £10,740 was carried over from 10/11 making a total budget of £49,170 for the 11/12 financial year.

The Committee has chosen to allocate its funding into two pots:

- Community Chest - £10,000 providing small grants up to £750
 - Larger Grant Scheme - £39,170 providing funding for projects over £750 with grant applications not normally exceeding £3000
- 1.2 To date a total of 14 applications have been approved totalling £27,909 leaving £21,261 to be committed in 2011/12.
- 1.3 Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to consider applications for funding already received, and propose recommendations for the main meeting.

2. Recommendations

- That the LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding at its discretion based on the recommendations made.
- The Committee makes its decisions in the context of the overall funding request exceeding the remaining budget.
- That the LJC begins to consider its funding priorities for the 2012/13 financial year to support initiatives which help develop community-based and led projects in the area.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 In determining these recommendations the LJC has considered reputational risk and the course of action minimises this risk.
- 3.2 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the 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, and in particular in those communities identified by local Councillors as not benefiting previously from LJC support

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The funding devolved to the LJC can be used for a number of different purposes over the year to address local priorities. Funding by the LJC must comply with the general Financial Rules for LJC's.
- 4.2 The Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley & Claverley Local Joint Committee has agreed individual criteria in addition to the general financial rules. These are detailed in appendix 1.

5. Background

- 5.1 A total of 10 applications have been received for consideration at the October 19th meeting. All are for the larger grants scheme, with a combined funding request of £24,267. This is £3,006 over the amount available to the committee.

		£ requested
12.	Cross Lane Head Speed Limit	3,000
13.	Disabled facilities at People's Hall	3,000
14.	Equipment for Alveley Cricket Club	1,259
15.	Alveley Recreation Ground Improvements	1,095
16.	Norton Playground Refurbishment	3,000
17.	Facility Improvements- Bridgnorth Rugby Club	3,000
18.	New goal posts- Bridgnorth Spartans FC	1,413
19.	Alveley Chapel Community Hub	3,000
20.	Steps and castle walk interpretation scheme- Bridgnorth Civic Society	3,000
21.	Sensory Garden- St John's RC School	2,500
	TOTAL	24,267

6. Additional Information on projects

6.1. Cross Lane Head Speed Limit

This project has been submitted by Astley Abbots Parish Council as a key priority identified by the Community for action in their Parish Plan (completed winter 2010), where major concerns have been expressed about safety. The Parish Council did apply to be considered through the Village Speed Limit programme but missed out.

As such a scheme has been developed by the Parish Council and Shropshire Council's Highways Team to implement a speed limit through Cross Lane Head (the B4373 Bridgnorth to Broseley Road) to address this clear need. The Parish Council are investing £500 with SC Highways investing £1,500 to complete a scheme of £5,000. The Parish Council's precept for 2011/12 was £4,000 and is therefore eligible to apply to the LJC.

Since receiving this application some Members of the Local Joint Committee have indicated concerns that the scheme was not delivered as a priority through the Village Speed Limit policy and have indicated they would like clarity on whether the police are likely to be able to enforce the speed limit if implemented.

Recommendation: To consider the application in the light of these concerns.

Disabled Facilities at People's Hall Evangelical Church

This project will enable the creation of disabled toilet and baby changing facilities at the People's Hall. This will meet a clear identified need by existing users including several community groups and potential users including a local support group for people with special needs.

The Hall has always supported a wide range of local groups and this project will enable it to fulfil this role more effectively and meet growing demand.

Since receiving this application some Members of the Local Joint Committee have indicated that further information on the range of community groups that would benefit was needed; further quotes were needed due to the large difference between the two quotes provided; together with information about how the hall meets different needs to the Low Town Community Hall.

Recommendation: To consider the application in the light of these concerns.

Equipment & training support for Alveley Cricket Club

This project will enable Alveley cricket club to purchase a range of equipment and support training costs for coaches to support its growing role in developing youth cricket.

There is a clear and growing demand for this project but the Club have benefited from previous grants from the LJC:

- £3,360 in 09/10 towards the costs of a roller and junior kit
- £3,675 in 10/11 towards the costs of a mower and shed

Since receiving the application some Members of the Local Joint Committee have indicated that they consider the group has already benefited significantly from support in previous years and that support is needed to develop the club to become more financially self sustaining.

Recommendation: To consider the application in the light of this concern.

Alveley Recreation Ground Improvements

This project is to support the Recreation Association to provide a new floor in the kitchen area. A need that has been identified by their committee and by WM Police following a break in at the facility. The ground and hall provide key facilities for the community and have a wide range of users and beneficiaries.

The Committee have supported the Recreation Association with a previous grant:

- £3,000 in 09/10 towards the cost of insulation

Since receiving the application some Members of the Local Joint Committee have indicated that they consider the group has already benefited significantly from support in previous years and that the security aspects of the project could be delivered through alternative avenues.

Recommendation: To consider the application in the light of this concern.

Norton Playground Refurbishment

This project is to refurbish and greatly enhance the existing playground facilities in the village of Norton. There are no other facilities within the Village or the wider parish and as such this facility plays a key role in the community.

The project will deliver a range of improvements to a value of over £10,000 with the Parish Council contributing £6,000 and in kind and cash donations being secured from the Apley Estate and from local company, Samco.

The Parish Council's precept is below £5,000 and is eligible for funding support from the LJC.

Recommendation: The Committee are recommended to grant approval at an amount at their discretion.

Facility Improvements- Bridgnorth Rugby Club

This project is to provide funding support to enable a range of urgent works to take place on the pavilion at the club's Edgar Davies Ground. The pavilion is key to the club's work that directly benefits over 200 people who play at various levels and ages but critically it is key to the club's wider role as a community group, supporting activities such as the community firework display, the Rally in the Valley and various fun days.

Work is ongoing with Shropshire Council and the RFU to develop the club's premises for the long term.

This project's value is over £20,000 with the club contributing £6,000 and securing a range of in kind and voluntary work. The RFU have pledged support based on match funding being secured.

Recommendation: The Committee are recommended to grant approval at an amount at their discretion.

New Goal Posts- Bridgnorth Spartans FC

This project is to provide a new set of purpose made goal posts for the club. Bridgnorth Spartans work with nearly 200 young people from the Bridgnorth area with over 15 teams competing regularly. The Club is a key part of the community infrastructure in the town.

This project will give the club a boost by providing better quality training and competitive opportunities for young people and increasing the pool of volunteers involved in the club and will help make the club more sustainable.

Recommendation: The Committee are recommended to grant approval at an amount at their discretion.

Alveley Chapel Community Hub

Following many years of fundraising St Mary's PCC have recently purchased the redundant Methodist Chapel in Alveley in order to deliver their long term aim of providing a community hub in the village.

The project will provide a drop in facility for a range of users ranging from youth clubs to job clubs, a café through to an office space for local businesses to use to meet clients.

Importantly the building will compliment the existing community halls in Alveley and provide services to meet need and demand.

This project is being developed with assistance from Shropshire Council and Alveley & Romsley Parish Council.

This project has a total value of £80,174, and LJC funding is specifically being requested to contribute to the costs of insulating the building and providing a new heating system- both of which are critical to the building being able to provide a comfortable environment for the activities outlined.

Since receiving the application some Members of the Local Joint Committee have indicated that they would like to see further quotes for the works and need further information of how the project meets needs that the existing halls in Alveley cannot provide.

Recommendation: To consider the application in the light of these concerns.

Castle Walk and Town Steps Refurbishment- Bridgnorth Civic Society

The Civic Society are leading a project to refurbish the town's steps and Castle walk to enable them to meet their potential for attracting visitors to the town and to be a safe and welcoming community resource.

Significant funds of over £45,000 have been secured through Shropshire Council's Market Towns Revitalisation Programme to undertake much of the infrastructural repair work.

Research by the Committee has confirmed that very little information exists about the steps and as such this funding request is to enable an appropriate expert to be recruited to work with the Society and the community to develop an interpretation story and trail for the steps and castle walk and confirm the capital scheme for implementation for which a Heritage Lottery Fund bid will be submitted.

Since receiving the application some Members of the Local Joint Committee have indicated that they consider that further research is needed into what knowledge the community have of the history of the steps and that other sources of funding could be gained to support the project.

Recommendation: To consider the application in the light of these concerns.

Sensory Garden Project- St John's RC Primary School

This project is to implement a sensory garden for pupils and the wider community at St John's school. The school has a small site within the town centre and is developing its limited grounds as an outdoor classroom area.

This project will specifically deliver a sensory garden that will be designed with the children to echo the style of the arts and crafts style houses in Innage Gardens- a project that is being developed with Shropshire Council's Conservation Team and the Apley Estate. Importantly the gardens will be available for wider community use including the residents of Innage Grange Nursing Home, youth groups and for parents and carers.

The PTA have secured significant funds from other sources and have in kind donations and volunteer time.

Since receiving the application some Members of the Local Joint Committee have indicated that they need further information on the community groups that will benefit from this project and also that aspects of this project could be delivered through donations.

Recommendation: To consider the application in the light of these concerns.

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

Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12 – 2013/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13th January 2011.

Locality Working Local Joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9th December 2010.

LJC application form for the projects listed

Bridgnorth LJC funding guidelines

Funding Priorities for 2012/13- paper x

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Gwilym Bulter

Local Member

Councillors John Hurst-Knight, Christian Lea, William Parr, Les Winwood, Michael Wood and Tina Woodward.

Appendices

1 Funding Criteria

APPENDIX 1

Criteria for Consideration of Applications

Eligibility

- Projects will be delivered in the eligible area
- Project meets approved financial/grant criteria

Assessment

- In the local area
- At least 25% of match funding for Larger Grant Scheme, an element of match funding for the Community Chest.
- One application per applicant per year
- Is for £750 or less (Community Chest) or £3000 or less (Larger Grant Scheme).
- Is not for profit
- Demonstrates need
- Delivers local community benefit
- Assures that application can deliver project
- Demonstrates sustainability with evidence where relevant on how any future revenue funding costs will be met, e.g. through fund-raising
- Demonstrates no adverse environmental impact
- Provides benefit to wider community in the Committee area.
- That applications from Town and Parish Councils with a precept below £5000 be considered only in exceptional circumstances and that funding applications from Town and Parish Councils with a precept above £5000 should not be considered.
- Applicants who are not the owners of the property or land for which they are applying must provide evidence of security of tenure or lease.