



Committee and date
Bridgnorth, Worfield,
Claverley & Alveley
Local Joint Committee

Wed 18 January 2012

7.00 p.m.

Item

7

Public

FUNDING PRIORITIES 2012-13

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1. Summary

Confirmation has now been received that Local Joint Committee (LJC) budgets for next financial year will be the same as this year - i.e. £35,500 for this LJC.

The LJCs are a key part of the overall work to deliver localism in Shropshire, and will be supported by Shropshire Council to achieve this. Recognising this strategic importance there is increasing onus on LJCs to have a very clear understanding of their local communities and how the various elements (Public, Voluntary and Private) can best work together to deliver real outcomes that make a difference to the lives of local people.

In order to achieve this goal LJCs will need to create some views on their priorities for spending their delegated funds, so that they can invite bids from interested groups to address these priorities, and/or to guide decision making about applications for funding.

LJCs that have not spent their funding for this year will be allowed to roll this forward into next year, but Shropshire Council will need reassurance that any underspend is related to clear strategic goals, and is either committed to recognised projects/priorities, or allocated to local projects/priorities. There is a clear directive to move away from simply reacting to whatever group needs funding for the moment, and more towards a clear view of what we want the funding to achieve for Shropshire as a whole, and local communities in particular.

2. Recommendations

The Committee are requested to consider how to prioritise spend of the 12/13 budget at the January meeting.

The following methods of identifying priorities may be of interest for the discussion:

- An analysis of town and parish plans to identify priority areas and common and specific projects from across the LJC area. Communities without plans should not feel at a disadvantage.
- Consideration of the priorities within the Bridgnorth Place plan.
- Parish/Town Council priorities- identified through either existing evidence or a special meeting.

- Consideration of the Community Strategy for Shropshire and how its priorities could be delivered locally- the priorities are:
 - Enterprise and growth, with strong market towns and rebalanced rural settlements
 - Responding to climate change and enhancing our natural and built environment
 - Healthy, safe and confident people and communities
- A specific consultation event to tease out up to date priorities

As part of this priority setting, the Committee may wish to discuss allocating proportions of its budget for different purposes- e.g. £20,000 for delivering the priorities of the area, £15,000 for a community chest type scheme. Within this discussion maximum grant amounts may need to be set.

The Committee are also requested to discuss and confirm its approach to organisations that have a high degree of dependence on grant support year on year such as some of the town's festivals and events that play an important role in the town's economy and wider community well being. The allocation of the Arts Grant for 2012 is not yet clear but this may be useful in supporting such organisations.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

3.1 In discussing 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

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.

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

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Gwilym Butler

Local Members

Cllrs Christian Lea, John-Hurst Knight, William Parr, Les Winwood, Michael Wood & Tina Woodward

Appendices

None.