



<u>Committee and date</u> Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley & Claverley
Local Joint Committee
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2012
7.00 p.m.

<u>Item No</u>
<b>8</b>
Public

## **2011/12 FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Responsible Officer** Tom Brettell

e-mail: [tom.brettell@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 up until 31<sup>st</sup> 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 20 applications have been approved totalling £41,962 leaving £7,208 to be committed in 2011/12.
- 1.3 Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to plan the meeting and to briefly consider applications for funding already received, and discuss any issues or missing information. In response to concerns raised by the public about the length of time taken at meetings debating funding applications, it is proposed that in future, the planning meetings undertake to have a full discussion of funding applications and make proposals for ratification at the full 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.

## **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 LJCs.
- 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 2 applications have been received for consideration at the January 18th meeting. All are for the larger grants scheme, with a combined funding request of £6,000.
- 5.2 2 applications were deferred from the October meeting with a combined funding request of £4,259.

		<b>requested</b>
12.	Cross Lane Head Speed Limit (Deferred from October meeting)	£3,000
14.	Equipment for Alveley Cricket Club (Deferred from October meeting)	£1,259
22.	Bridgnorth Music & Arts Festival	£3,000
23.	English Haydn Festival	£3,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£10,259</b>

## 6. Additional Information on projects

### 6.1. Cross Lane Head Speed Limit

This project was submitted by Astley Abbots Parish Council at the October meeting as a priority project identified by the Community for action in their Parish Plan (completed winter 2010), where major concerns have been expressed about safety.

Funding support was requested towards a scheme that is being 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.

At the October meeting the members requested further information on whether the scheme would be enforceable by the Police and deferred a decision until this information was forthcoming. Further information is expected by the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**Recommendation:** members are requested to reconsider the application in the light of further information to be presented at the meeting

### Equipment & training support for Alveley Cricket Club

This project was submitted by Alveley cricket club for consideration at the October meeting where members deferred a decision until the January meeting and requested the club seek alternative sources of funding for the project. Subsequent to the meeting the Club have written to the Committee explaining that the potential grant giving bodies mentioned at the meeting are not appropriate and have requested that the application be reconsidered.

**Recommendation:** To reconsider the application in the light of this communication

### **2012 Festival- Bridgnorth Music & Arts Festival**

This project is to provide support to the 2012 Music & Arts Festival. The Festival is of growing importance to the town's economy and community infrastructure and provides a wide variety of opportunities for the local community and visitors to participate in a range of events and activities and a platform to showcase local artists and businesses.

The event is growing year on year; in 2011 camping was provided for the first time that was very popular. Other new features included a poetry event, comedy workshops and animation events at the Majestic Cinema.

The Festival has received funding support from the LJC in previous years:

- £6,000 in 09/10
- £5,000 in 10/11

A request of £3,000 has been made from the LJC that will contribute to an overall project cost of £11,483.

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 would like reassurance that the Festival can become self sustaining in future years.

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

### **English Haydn Festival 2012**

This project is to provide funding support towards the costs of the 2012 English Haydn Festival.

The Festival is of international importance and brings significant audiences to the town with benefit to the town's economy.

The application is accompanied by a letter that requests the Committee to consider ongoing financial assistance to this Festival and other main festivals within the town.

The Festival has received funding support from the LJC in previous years:

- £3,600 in 08/09
- £6,490 in 09/10
- £5,000 in 10/11

Since receiving the application, Members of the Local Joint Committee have expressed concern that the Festival has already benefited significantly from LJC support in previous years. In 2010 the Committee requested evidence that the Festival can become self sustaining in future years and concerns have been raised that this application does not provide this evidence.

The Committee have also requested further, more up to date evidence of the economic impact of the Festival and the wider benefits to the community.

**Recommendation:** To consider the application in the light of these concerns and further information provided by the applicant at the meeting.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Locality Working Local Joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

LJC application form for the projects listed

Bridgnorth LJC funding guidelines

Funding Priorities for 2012/13- paper 7

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Councillor Gwilym Butler

**Local Member**

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

**Appendices**

1 Funding criteria

2 Spending 2011-12

## 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.