



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

19th June 2013

7.00 p.m.

Item No

9

Public

2013/14 FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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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 2013 up until 31st March 2014.

A total of £35,500 has been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for the 2013/14 financial year.

£2,930 has been allocated to the Committee from the apportionment of the Shropshire Community Arts Budget.

£8,163 has been carried over from the 12/13 financial year from which two projects are being funded that were agreed at the last meeting to be dealt with under delegated authority (Norton Defibrillator £688 and Bridgnorth Foodbank £1715) leaving £5,760 carry over to be used for projects this financial year.

This totals a budget of £44,190 for the 13/14 financial year.

The Committee are asked to consider how to prioritise and allocated its funding for this year using the discussion paper (Item 5).

2. Recommendations

- That the LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding at its discretion based on the recommendations made.

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 5 applications have been received for consideration at the June 19th meeting. In addition an application made by Worfield Recreation Rooms at the February meeting was agreed to be split over 2 financial years due to the substantial nature of the project.
- 5.2 The total funding request is for £12,834 and if these are agreed in full a total £32,856 will be left unallocated.

5.3

Project	£ requested
The Bridge, Youth and Community Volunteers Programme (16-19s)	£2,950
Book award 2014	£2,664
Bridgnorth Stage Academy – Sound Equipment	£750
Beckbury Playing Fields- car park project	£2,500
Bridgnorth Music & Arts Festival	£800
Worfield Recreation Rooms- Phased project	£1,670
TOTAL	£12,834

6. **Additional Information on projects**

The Bridge Youth and Community Volunteers Programme

This application is to support the purchase of some capital media equipment to enable the Bridge volunteers programme to be delivered and to provide key support to the youth worker in all aspects of the Bridge's activities. The work of the Bridge is expanding to a wider geography and their work forms an essential part of the development of young people from across the LJC area.

The Volunteers project is designed to encourage an attitude of participation and personal responsibility within the 16-19 community of Bridgnorth. With a clear focus on volunteering and personal success in three vital areas of everyday life, (attitude, time & finance) participants will gain invaluable experience and tools to succeed in their future, and develop a positive attitude towards giving to their community through volunteering.

The project has secured significant assistance from local businesses, schools and community groups.

Book Award 2014

This application is to support the costs of bringing the highly successful Bookfest and Bookaward programme to the Bridgnorth area, building on its successful track record in other Shropshire Towns that has attracted national attention.

The project provides innovative support to Shropshire primary schools in their work to engage children with books and reading. It is an initiative targeted at KS2 (9-11years) children that adds value to the National Curriculum working with the children to express their views about contemporary fiction.

Each school will create a panel of readers who will judge the best-selling children's books of the year and will come up with a shortlist of 6 titles. This will culminate in an awards ceremony at Theatre Severn where all the pupils will be involved and will meet the authors of the books.

The schools will then receive multiple copies of the winning title.

Funding support is requested to bring the project to the Bridgnorth area, specifically towards the costs of books, promotion and marketing, support with the costs of visiting authors and the awards ceremony.

Significant funding has been secured towards the project from specific funding trust and a pupil premium of £5 per head to be charged.

Bridgnorth Stage Academy - Sound Equipment

This application is to assist the Stage Academy, who work with over 60 under 16's in the area, to purchase some sound equipment. This will enable the children to have the opportunity to practice with the equipment in advance of shows and so that the older students and volunteers can learn how to operate the equipment and mentor their peers.

Having their own sound equipment will enable the Academy to save money on future productions, provide entertainment at a wider number of community events and will allow them to keep their membership fees as low as possible, facilitating access to children from families of all incomes.

The sound equipment totals £1,500 and the Academy have secured £750 from Bridgnorth Town Council and as such they are requesting a contribution from the LJC of £750.

Beckbury Playing Fields Association- Car Park

This application is to support with the costs of creating an extension to the existing car park at Beckbury Playing Fields. The fields support a variety of community activities ranging from community football and cricket through to the Beckbury Show and a range of village and charity events. The existing car park is too small to meet this demand and the fields are being churned up by cars parking on the grass.

This project will create a much larger car park using a "grasscrete" type product that will allow grass to grow through and will not impact on drainage or the appearance of the site.

A large amount of in kind support has been secured for the project in the form of plant, equipment and labour. A funding application has been made to Beckbury Parish Council and local fundraising is underway.

Bridgnorth Music & Arts Festival 2013

This application is to support the costs of the 2013 festival which is in its 7th year of running. The festival grows year on year offering a range of well-known events for residents and visitors alike and an array of opportunities for local people to be involved in music and arts activities.

A range of funding has been secured including sponsorship from local companies, fundraising in various forms and projected income comes from programme and cd sales and camping.

In line with advice given by the LJC the Festival has worked hard to reduce its costs and to increase sponsorship and reduce grant

dependence. The funding request is much smaller than previous years (£2,103 for 2012 and £5,000 2011).

Worfield Recreation Rooms- Redecoration

At the February 2013 meeting the LJC agreed to phase its support to this significant project to renovate and redecorate this extremely well used hall. £2,300 was granted in February towards phase 1 and £1,670 is now requested towards phase 2 to assist with the costs of the completion of the project.

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 2013/14 item 5

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder): Councillor Gwilym Butler

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

Appendix: 1 Criteria for consideration of applications

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 £2000 or less (Larger Grant Scheme).
- Preference to support projects that have a lasting legacy and those that are working to become less dependent on grant support
- 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.