



Committee and date  
Cleobury Mortimer and Clee  
partial Local Joint Committee  
20<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Item

**6**

Paper

**A**

## LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE FUTURE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

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### Summary

£36,000 has been allocated to the Cleobury Mortimer and Clee Partial Local Joint Committee for the current financial year. This reports considers the proposed uses of this funding for this year.

### Recommendations

- A. To approve the following recommendations:
- The Cleobury Country Community Chest Scheme should be continued with a budget of £5000, providing small grants up to £500.
  - A larger grant scheme for projects over £500 to be established with a budget of £15,000 with grant applications usually not exceeding £2500.
  - The remainder of the budget (£16,000) to be retained to spend on local priorities as developed over the coming months.

### Report

#### 1. Community Chest small grants scheme

- 1.1 £36,000 has been allocated to the Cleobury Mortimer and Clee Partial Local Joint Committee for the current financial year 2009/2010.
- 1.2 Cleobury Country Ltd (the Market Towns regeneration partnership for the area) has successfully operated a community chest small grants scheme since 2005, initially through AWM funding and latterly through Second Homes Council Tax funding via South Shropshire District Council, and a contribution from Bridgnorth District Council.
- 1.3 The scheme was administered by Cleobury Country with officer support from the Market Towns Officer. An appraisal panel of local people was appointed and trained in appraising projects. This scheme has worked successfully over the last 5 years with over 50 grants awarded to community groups within the LJC area (See Appendix 1).
- 1.4 It is proposed to continue the scheme using this proven model and track record of Cleobury Country Ltd to ensure continuity. It is recommended that the following conditions are applied to the continuation of this scheme with LJC funding:
- a) Grants of up to £500 can be awarded totalling no more than 50% of the total project cost (which can include volunteer time and any cash from other sources)

- b) Two members of the LJC panel are appointed to the community chest appraisal panel
- c) The Community Chest panel will make recommendations to the LJC for final approval
- d) Deadlines and panel meetings will be set in line with LJC meetings to ensure decision making time is kept to a minimum
- e) All panel meeting notes will be presented to LJC members along with project summaries and recommendations
- f) Paperwork will be modified slightly to reflect the funding source and any new parishes included (See appendix 2)
- g) The Community Regeneration Officer will provide support to the Community Chest panel, LJC members, successful and unsuccessful applicants and Cleobury Country Ltd

1.5 The deadline for the first round of community chest applications will be Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

## **2.0 Larger Grants**

2.1 It is proposed that the LJC itself will operate a grant scheme for larger projects of over £500

2.2 The standard application form and financial procedure notes produced by Shropshire Council will be used for all applications for this funding.

2.3 All applications will be submitted to the Committee Clerk or Community Regeneration Officer in the first instance. The Community Regeneration Officer will liaise with the applicant throughout the process

2.4 There will be a closing date for applications no less than 2 weeks before each Local Joint Committee **Planning** meeting in order to allow sufficient time for the applications to be appraised by the Committee before the final decisions are made at the public meetings.

2.5 It is proposed that grants awarded through this funding will not exceed 70% of total project costs will **generally** be up to a maximum grant of £2500.

2.6 Initial eligibility will be assessed by the Community Regeneration Officer with project appraisal taking place through planning meetings with final decisions made at the public meetings.

2.7 The first round of applications will be accepted during the period July to September. The closing date for the first round of applications will be Friday 11th September 2009. Final decisions on any grant applications will be made at the Local Joint Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

## **3.0 Remaining budget**

3.1 The above allocations leave £16,000 in the LJC budget for this year.

3.2 It is proposed to keep this funding ringfenced for local priorities which may include service enhancements.

3.3 Identifying and setting local priorities will take place over the coming three months through the Parish Council representatives, Local member and any community based evidence such as Parish Plans etc

3.4 This budget allocation will be reviewed in December and reallocated if necessary.

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b> None identified.
<b>Human Rights Act Appraisal</b> No conflicts with the Human Rights Act have been identified.
<b>Environment Appraisal</b> Not applicable.
<b>Risk Management Appraisal</b> All funding applications are assessed against agreed criteria which will minimise any risks associated with these projects.
<b>Community / Consultations Appraisal</b> Decisions on allocation of funding are subject to approval by the Cleobury Mortimer and Clee Partial Joint Committee as representatives of the local community.
<b>Cabinet Member:</b> Gwilym Butler
<b>Local Members:</b> <u>Shropshire Council:</u> Paul Andrews Gwilym Butler Madge Shingleton  <u>Parish &amp; Town Councils:</u> Brian Howells – Burford Parish Council Deborah Brown – Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council Theresa Mackrow – Coreley Parish Council Mark Link – Farlow Parish Council Linda Clayton – Hopton Wafers Parish Council David Haywood – Kinlet Parish Council Chris Jones – Milson and Neen Sollars Parish Council Michael Tomkinson – Neen Savage Parish Council Diane Newsham – Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council Wheathill Parish Council Boraston Parish Meeting
<b>Appendices:</b> 1. List of Cleobury Country Community Chest grants 2. Proposed Community Chest application form and guidance notes