

2011/12 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 Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1st April 2011 up until 31st March 2012.
- 1.2 A total of £17,518 has been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for the 2011/12 year. To date four funding applications totalling £8,938 have been approved and are underway or have been completed in the area. These are: Pre School Alliance Messy Play Days; Monkmoor Fun Day; 1st Robertsford Scout Group re-roofing; and Floor renovation and access improvement works to Monkmoor Baptist Church Hall.
- 1.3 Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to consider applications for funding already received, and agree recommendations.

2. Recommendations

- That the LJC considers the application received, and awards funding of £2,500 towards the St Winifride's car park project, as recommended.
- That the LJC prioritises its remaining funding for 2011/12 to support initiatives which help develop community-based and led projects in the areas of Bridgeford Way, Buttington Road and surrounds and Clive Road, Abbots Road/Barleyfields and surrounds.

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.

5. Background

- 5.1 The Eastern Shrewsbury LJC is responsible for the award and expenditure of a devolved budget. The amount available to the LJC in 2011/12 has reduced as a result of Shropshire Council budget decisions, and a review of locality working in Shropshire. This amount has however been supplemented by the transfer of funding previously available for Community arts projects in to the LJC budgets, and some under spend carried forward from 2010/11.
- 5.2 The total amount therefore available to Eastern Shrewsbury LJC is calculated as follows:
- 5.3 Total LJC electorate as at August 2010:
9323
- 5.4 Budget based on this electorate
40,000
- 5.5 Amount available for 2011/12 following 50% budget reduction
£20,000
- 5.6 Minus 30% top slice of funding for Shrewsbury wide allocation
£6,000

- 5.7 Plus apportioned allocation of community arts budget
£1,588
- 5.8 Plus carry forward of under spend
£1,930
- 5.9 TOTAL budget for 2011/12 £17,518
- 5.10 So far in this financial year, grants totalling £8,938.00 have been allocated, leaving a remaining balance of £8,580.00 for future funding requests.
- 5.11 One further application for funding has been received for consideration at this meeting. A summary of the project is provided below. The detailed application is available to view on request.

		£ requested	£ recommended
A.	Saint Winefride's Car Park extension	6,000	2,500
	TOTAL	6,000	2,500
	Total Funding Recommended		2,500.00
	Original Budget		17,518.00
	Spend to Date		11,438.00
	Balance Remaining for identified priorities		6,080.00

- 5.3 Prior to this meeting the Committee has not allocated funds, or invited applications for any specific priorities but has indicated that it will receive applications from local organisations for eligible purposes. All LJC's are now being requested to identify their future funding priorities. It is therefore proposed by the Members of the LJC that the remaining funds for this financial year be ring-fenced to support initiatives which reflect the priorities identified in the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey community consultation in relation to improving local quality of life and reducing concerns about low level anti-social behaviour. The LJC would be particularly supportive of community/resident-led initiatives which help develop community-based and led projects in the areas of Bridgeford Way, Buttington Road and surrounds and Clive Road, Abbots Road/Barleyfields and surrounds, as these communities have been identified by the local Councillors and other partners as priorities, and have not benefited directly from previous LJC support.

6. Additional Information

6.1. Saint Winifride's Car Park Extension

This project has been submitted by Saint Winifride's R.C. Church following representations made by them at the last LJC meeting, as a result of which they were encouraged to come forward with a second funding request to help them meet the shortfall in their project funding. The Church originally received a contribution of £1,000 from the LJC towards their car park project in October 2010. Since that time the church has continued its fundraising efforts, and in line with their original LJC application, the car park was refurbished to accommodate approximately 24 cars. However, in order to achieve this, the Church took the decision to secure a loan from the Diocesan Board to meet the shortfall in funding of £14,430. Representatives of the church contend that in view of the availability of the car park to benefit the local community, a greater contribution should have been made by the Local Joint Committee. £8,411.26 has so far been raised towards the project by local parishioners. In addition, the volunteer effort contained in the project is calculated to be worth in excess of £5,000.

The car park is used regularly on Wednesday mornings and on Friday evenings and Sundays, as well as for various activities held in the Parish Centre. The car park is also available for any community activities and functions at the two adjacent schools as overflow car park with prior arrangement. The Church states it is working closely with the neighbouring schools, shops, etc to encourage community use of their car park to help alleviate parking issues and concerns about safety on Crowmere Road. The applicant states that in view of the clear benefit to, and use by, the wider community of the area they are seeking a greater funding contribution, as has been made to other churches in the area which demonstrate wider community usage.

Need and demand – the applicant emphasises that there is no other off-street parking in this busy residential area, which has two nearby schools and a number of shops, and that the extended car park has reduced the amount of street parking resulting in a reduction of congestion, and therefore danger to drivers and pedestrians.

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 project listed

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Gwilym Bulter

Local Member
Councillors Miles Kenny, Jo Jones, Tony Durnell
Appendices
None