



Committee and date
Ellesmere Area Local Joint
Committee

14 July 2011

7pm

Item

10

Public

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 Ellesmere Area Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1 April 2011 up until 31 March 2012.
- 1.2 A total of £17,584 has been devolved to the committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2011/12.
- 1.3 A planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations to be taken to the LJC where decisions will be made.
- 1.4 Seven applications have been received for this reporting period. These were considered at the planning meeting held on 28 June 2011. The recommendations from the planning meeting are listed in this report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report. The recommendation is to approve, not approve or defer the following funding applications as detailed:

		£
A	Lyneal and Colemere Church	Deferred
B	British Waterways	£1000
C	Ellesmere Allotment Society	£ 270
D	Welshampton Primary School	£ 500
E	Ellesmere Rangers Football Club	£ 430
F	West Mercia Police	Not Approved
G	Ellesmere Town Council	£1000
	TOTAL	£3200

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 In determining this recommendation the Council 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.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The funding devolved to the LJC can be used for a number of different purposes over the year. At the present time, the Committee has not allocated funds to any specific purposes but has indicated that it will receive applications from local organisations for eligible purposes. Funding by the LJC must comply with the general Financial Rules for LJC's.

5. Background

- 5.1 From 1 April 2009 Shropshire Council created 28 Local Joint Committees (LJC) to operate across the whole of Shropshire. The LJC's are legally constituted decision making Committees of Shropshire Council
- 5.2 The LJC for Ellesmere wards has membership from Shropshire Council (3 members) and parish councils (4 members) all with equal voting rights.
- 5.3 One of the responsibilities of the LJC is to determine expenditure of the devolved budget. A budget of £ 17,584 has been made available to the LJC for the current financial year. This is made up of £14,000 from the LJC budget; £1,044 from the arts funding which has been transferred to the LJC and £2,540 carryover from this LJC's' 2010/11 budget . The total recommended value for projects put forward in this round total £3200 leaving a remaining balance £14,384 for future funding requests.
- 5.4 The committee have agreed that the annual budget should be equally split between the three meetings and under spend carried forward to the next meeting. The meeting on 10 November will have a budget of £8522 and the following meeting the remaining budget of £5862. There will be no carry forward to 2012-2013.

6. Additional Information

6.1 A summary of applications has been compiled and included below.

6.2 Lyneal and Colemere Church Restoration Project 2010

6.2.1 This project has been submitted by the Parochial Church Council and seeks to complete a major restoration project in the church which serves 2 parishes. The group wish to make refurbishments in line with conditions expected of a Grade 2 listed building. These include replacing the existing external rainwater goods with powder coated aluminium. Refurbish the 3 external doors, restore the boiler house and re hang the second Bell. Total funds required £19,546 with £8,000 match funding available.

6.2.2 Need and Demand – The applicant provided details of current attendance at the church services as 25-30 people and a Sunday School supporting 15 young people. The church building is the only local meeting place and an area has been provided for community meetings such as quiz nights, flower festivals, neighbourhood watch meetings, craft fairs and summer events. The existing doors are heavy and difficult to lock. The present boiler is out of commission and the boiler house when renovated will make a useful store.

6.3 Relighting The Forge

6.3.1 This project has been submitted by British Waterways and seeks to focus on the restoration of the blacksmiths forge at Ellesmere Canal Yard. The building has fallen into disrepair following it operating as a forge for 160 years. Once restored the forge will be opened as a tourist attraction. Demonstrations and educational workshops will take place. A business plan will be completed in tandem with the restoration to support the project and identifying a firm foundation for future funding to restore the whole site. Total funds required £69,850 with £67,850 match funding available.

6.3.2 Need and demand - Ellesmere is identified as a priority tourism area within Shropshire with 12000 boat movements along the length of canal. The Ellesmere Yard and forge will bring people off the towpath and allow them to be diverted to the town and Mere.

6.4 Ellesmere Allotment Society – Water Supply

6.4.1 This project has been submitted by Ellesmere Allotment Society which was set up in 2010. There are 30 plots on a 2 acre site the furthest being 2km from the present water supply. The committee wish to provide a number of small self filling water troughs spaced across the site. The troughs will avoid water wastage and improve the route taken to the supply for the majority of plot holders. Total funds required £2,680. The applicant has contacted 9 local organisations to request donations to the cost.

6.4.2 Need and demand – The need for allotments is a historic provision for people to grow their own vegetables and supplement family food provision. Allotments offer a social provision and bring communities together to learn from each other and pass on skills. Provision of easy to reach water supply is essential to promote well stocked supply.

6.5 Welshampton School Garden

6.5.1 This application has been submitted by Welshampton Primary School and seeks to compliment their forest school and Green Flag ECO council. The project will provide equipment, tools, and plants to create a sensory area with raised beds. The young people will work outside with members of the local community to share skills required for gardening. Total funds required £1,270 with £270 match funding.

6.5.2 Need and demand – The existing interest in the forest school has allowed outdoor teaching and this project will enhance the opportunity. It will open up opportunities for disabled pupils and also able bodied young people to work together.

6.6 Ellesmere Rangers Football Club

6.6.1 This application has been submitted by Ellesmere Rangers Football Club to enable them to purchase and install football stop netting to the football pitch adjacent to a children's play area in Beech Grove, Ellesmere. Total project cost £430 with no offer of match funding.

6.6.2 Need and demand – The club supports in the region of 92 boys and 24 girls who train and play matches on the site. In addition the area is used for informal play between matches. The club installed netting at one end of the pitch last year and this project will contribute to making the area safer for users of the recreation area.

6.7 West Mercia Police - Speed Enforcement on the Ellesmere Section

6.7.1 This application has been submitted by West Mercia Police to cover the annual cost of calibrating the laser speed gun for use in hot spots in the section. Total project cost £202.80 with no offer of match funding.

6.7.2 Need and demand – The issue of speeding traffic is highlighted at the majority of LJC and PACT meetings. West Mercia Police have sufficient funds to cover the cost of 1 annual calibration. Having 1 laser speed gun across the 2 sections will limit the availability.

6.8 Ellesmere Town Council - The Mere and Ellesmere Major Events Sign

6.8.1 This application has been submitted by Ellesmere Town Council to cover the cost of providing a traditional permanent sign at the entrance to Castlefields Car Park to promote local events and activities. Total project cost £2900.00 with no offer of match funding.

- 6.8.2 Need and demand – The previous sign was removed due to it being beyond economic repair. The site lends itself to offer visitors direction to events and the town. Re instatement will enhance opportunities to encourage the 80000 visitors to explore what is on offer.

Conclusions

7. The applications recommended were considered to be of benefit to the community, following need, demand and assessment checklist. The LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report.

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 2011/12-2012/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13 th January 2011-07-04

Locality Working Local joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9 th December 2010
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
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Councillor Gwilym Butler

Local Member

Councillor Brian Williams

Councillor Ann Hartley

Councillor Steve Davenport

Appendices

None
