

Committee and date

Ellesmere Area Local Joint Committee

25 June 2013

7pm

Item

11

Public

2012/13 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 2013 up until 31 March 2014.
- 1.2 A total of £15040 has been devolved to the committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2013/14. *An additional £1438 is also available as carry forward from 2012/2013.*
- 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 4 applications have been received for this reporting period for consideration at the planning meeting held on 5 June 2013. 1 application was re submitted following the applicant providing further information. 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 or not approve the following funding applications as detailed:

		Recommended
19	Get Ellesmere On Line	970.00
1	Swan Hill Cemetary- Memorial Garden	1648.00
2	Welshampton Bonfire Committee-Ellesmere Raft Race & Street Band Festival	Not approved
3	PCC St Mary's Parish Church	defer
4	Welshampton Village Hall – Replacement Boiler	1830.30
TOTAL		4448.30

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 £ 15,040 has been made available to the LJC for the current financial year. This is made up of £14,000 from the LJC budget; £1,040 from the arts funding which has been transferred to the LJC and £1438. carryover from this LJC's' 2012/13 budget . Members agreed that the priority areas are community projects that offer IT support and support village based activities.
- 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 balance available for the period 2013/2014 is £12030.73

6. Additional Information

A summary of applications has been compiled and included below.

6.1 Get Ellesmere On Line-

- 6.1.1 This application has been submitted by 5 volunteers who give their time at Ellesmere Library to assist people to improve their IT skills. They are available for 1.5 hours twice a week. The learners currently use the Library computers and feel that extra equipment will enhance the project. A particular benefit of a tablet is that it is easier for learner's dexterity difficulties. The group have investigated other local offers and are willing to support training within community groups. They have supported 31 individuals over 6 week sessions. A waiting list of 13 is waiting new sessions.

Total funds required £3741 with £2771. match funding

- 6.1.2 Need and demand – This is an excellent example of Big Society and the value of supporting volunteers to deliver learning in the community. Case studies from clients endorse the benefit of the service.

6.2 Ellesmere Joint Burial Committee- Swan Hill Cemetery Memorial Garden

- 6.2.1 This project has been submitted by Ellesmere Joint Burial Committee to enable them to transform the memorial garden. A walled area and stone chipping will be laid with 80 uniformed plinths. Existing memorials will be transferred and approximately 25 new sites will be available.

Total funds required £13648. with £12000. match funding available.

- 6.2.2 Need and demand – A uniformed area and levelling of the ground will improve access and the appearance of the site. Capacity will be improved and a general enhancement of the area. Notices will be placed prior to commencement of work to inform relatives and love ones.

6.3 Welshampton Bonfire Committee -Ellesmere Raft Race & Street Festival

- 6.3.1 This project has been submitted to cover the cost of staging an event at Cremorne Gardens and The Mere on 3 August 2013. The event will be themed on Mystical Myths of The Mere and seek to involve members of the community to design, build and create a parade of floating delights. In addition street entertainment will link the town to the Mere. The group are awaiting a decision from HLF for the complete project on 24.6.13. Should the bid not be successful The group intend to scale down the event to a £3500. budget and ask for community group support in kind. Commitment

Total funds required £3500. with £2000. match funding available.

- 6.3.2 Need and demand – Ellesmere is a popular area to host events that help to showcase the tourism offer. This event will help to boost the event calendar and encourage people visiting the Mere to venture into town.

6.3.3 Reason for declining to fund – The committee felt that this event conflicts with other established events.

6.4 St Mary's Parish Church – CCTV visitor Scheme

6.4.1 This application has been submitted to enable the church to install a CCTV system within the churchyard and building. The PCC plan to allow community and visitors to access the building. They also have a commitment to take part in the Heritage trail. In addition to this CCTV will act as a deterrent against minor anti-social behaviour and lead theft.

Total funds required £8798. with £6798. match funding available.

6.4.2 Need and demand – The church is of historic interest and a delightful place of worship within the town. Opening the church will enhance the visitor experience.

6.4.3 Reason for deferral of funding –Whilst supportive of the project concept the committee would like further information as to how the church could be open to the public with satisfactory security by relying on CCTV alone. They would also like the applicant to re submit the bid once the match funding is in place.

6.5 Welshampton Parish Hall – Replacement Boiler

6.5.1 This application has been submitted to contribute towards the cost of replacing the heating boiler. The present boiler is beyond economic repair.

Total project cost £4080. with £2250. match funding.

6.5.2 Need and demand – The Village Hall is used daily and considered the heart of the community. The hall committee have worked very hard to refurbish the hall and have hosted community events to raise funds.

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.

8.0 The next LJC meeting is scheduled to take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 30 October 2013 at Welsh Frankton Village Hall, Welsh Frankton, SY11 4NZ

Application closing date will be Friday 27 September 2013.

8.1 Bids for future funding should be address to:

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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 13th January 2011-07-04

Locality Working Local joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9th December 2010

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Gwilym Butler

Local Member

Councillor Brian Williams
Councillor Ann Hartley
Councillor Steve Davenport

Appendices

None