

**2012/13 FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS
FOR CONSIDERATION****Responsible Officer** Julie Ruler

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report considers the devolved funding allocated to the Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins and Weston Rhyn Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1st April 2012 up until 31st March 2013.
- 1.2 A total of £17403, has been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2012/13.
- 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 Ten applications have been received for this reporting period for consideration at the planning meeting held on 6th November 2012. 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 below. The recommendation is to approve the following funding applications as detailed:

9	Chirk Bank Community Garden	£ 250.00
10	Weston Rhyn Primary School - Garden	£1000.00
11	Selattyn Primary Sports Equipment	£1000.00
12	Cedar Close Community Room	£ 650.00
13	Fairfield Close Community Activities	£ 320.00
14	Gobowen Pavilion Sit Safe	£1500.00
15	St Martins Centre Décor and paths	£ 1500.00
16	St Martins Methodist Chapel Carpet	£ 983.00

17	Big Local – IT to work	£600.00
18	Red Cross Young Carers	£700.00
	Total	£8503.00

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 Gobowen wards has membership from Shropshire Council (3 members) and parish councils (3 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 £ 17403 has been made available to the LJC for the current financial year. This is made up of £16,000 from the LJC budget; £1,310 from the arts funding which has been transferred to the LJC and £93. Carryover from this LJC's' 2011/12 budget .The total recommended value for projects put forward in this round total £ 8503.
- 5.4 The committee have agreed that the annual budget should be allocated between the three meetings and under spend carried forward to the next meeting.

6. Additional Information

6.1 Chirk Bank Community Garden

- 6.1.2 This project has been submitted by Chirk Bank Community Chapel in order that the group can facilitate a community allotment project alongside the canal. The site has 5 allotments which are maintained by local residents. The group wish to set up a community garden and wildlife area to the front of the site with disabled benches. The new areas will be tended by the existing allotment holders and open to the community to assist. The site will help create an area of peace and tranquillity for locals and the many visitors to the world heritage site.

Total cost £3900. with £2900.00 match funding available. The grant will cover the cost of gates, plants and fencing.

- 6.2.2 Need and Demand – This is an area that is within the World Heritage Site and a popular spot for walking. The community garden and wildlife area will enhance the visitor experience and is supported by British Waterways.

6.2 Weston Rhyn Primary School - Wild Life Area

- 6.2.1 This project has been submitted by Friends of Weston Rhyn Primary School to enable the creation of a trees and wild flowers native to Shropshire. The area will be fenced off with natural material with a style gate. The area will give children from the school, playgroup nursery and children's centre access to a natural exploration area that will be safe. The group will also purchase a storage container or equipment

The total cost £2900.00 with match funding of £300.00. The grant will cover the cost of a container, fencing gate & style and trees/wild flowers.

- 6.2.2 Need and demand – The school has limited land available and have a Forest Schools trained officer available to support outside activities. All groups on site will make use of the newly created space. The storage space will enable wet weather play and enable the group to have equipment close to the site.

6.3 Selattyn Primary School – Community Sports Equipment

- 6.3.1 This project has been submitted by a volunteer within the community who is happy to facilitate the purchase of outdoor sports equipment for use in the school and community activities at the school. The equipment will give local people access to healthy activities and extend the Olympic legacy project.

Total cost £1337.50 match funding £0. The grant will cover the cost of 2 table tennis tables, junior tennis equipment 2 basketball nets and badminton equipment.

- 6.3.2 Need and demand – This request is part of an aspiration to improve intergenerational activities and access to sports in a rural hamlet. The school is very much the hub for community activities and is host to a monthly youth meeting and after school clubs.

6.4 Cedar Close Residents Group- Safe Hot Cuppa and trip

- 6.4.1 This application has been submitted by local resident group who would like to purchase and install a water heater in their community area. The water heater will be fed directly from the water supply and will help to limit accidents and the need to fill kettles and boilers. In addition they would like to cover the transport costs for an outing to Llandudno for up to 30 people.

Total cost 855.60 with match funding of £55.60 from donations already made. The grant will be used to purchase and install a water heater and cover the hire of a coach.

- 6.4.2 Need and demand – This group meet on a weekly basis and supports sessions of bingo, community gatherings, coffee mornings etc. It welcomes local elderly people living outside complex. Having the water heater will make the provision of refreshments safer for the elderly people. Subsidy of the trip to the trip to Llandudno will enable those with limited funds access to social activities.

6.5 Fairfield Close Residents Group – Activities

- 6.5.1 This application has been submitted by Fairfield Close Residents Group to enable them to offer transport to 2 events and a day trip to Llandudno. The 30 members of the group meet at the community room and it helps them to socialise in a safe environment, they have regular coffee mornings and play bingo. The Christmas meal and trips are getting beyond the affordability of some and this limits attendance. The group will attend a Christmas panto at Ellesmere Comrades Club and a meal at the Lion Quays. Members will pay 50% of the pant ticket and 80% of the Christmas meal cost.

- 6.5.2 Need and demand – Social activities for elderly people is an important as many do not have sufficient funds to get out and these trips are their only contact with others. The group self-fund and save for the trips and are happy to contribute.

Total cost £420. with £0 match funding available.

6.6 Gobowen Pavilion Sit and safe

- 6.6.1 This application has been submitted by Gobowen Parish Council to support increased use of pavilion. The parish Council would like to request a grant to purchase 30 folding chairs and a trolley to store the chairs when not in use a PIR audible alarm system and a leaflet rack to promote local activities. As the building is lacking in artwork user groups have requested some interior poster boards and a white board for messages. Feedback from groups using the facility has identified that the present plastic chairs that are stored in the perimeter of the meeting room are a a) health hazard and b) uncomfortable. Also with more equipment in place the security on perimeter doors are needed.

Total cost £1749.49 00. with £149.49 match funding available.

- 6.6.2 Need and demand – The increased usage of the pavilion by the community. The newly developed IT drop in is attracting 6-10 people to gain knowledge of laptop use and internet connection. Monthly meetings for area first responders, Parish Council meetings and a weekly youth group meeting also take place.

6.7 St Martin's Centre – Redecoration Project

- 6.7.1 This application has been submitted by the trustees in order to fund materials to re paint the tired centre and install exterior path lighting. The work force will be provided by Community Payback Team and will be phased over the winter months. A volunteer will manage the project and encourage the community to donate dust sheets and other materials.

Total cost £2125.00 with £550.00 match funding.

- 6.7.2 Need and Demand – The Centre usage is increasing with a regular IT session available. Using the Community Payback Team is an excellent method to improve the community space and has reduced the cost to the group.

6.8 St Martin's Methodist Church – Community Room Flooring

- 6.8.1 This application has been submitted to assist the group with a phased project to improve the community room which is used for social gatherings, coffee mornings, Brownies, Guides etc. the group would like to replace worn carpet that is in places a trip hazard. The group have completed a refurbishment of the building and are looking to apply for further grants to assist with the final stages of improving the kitchen area.

Total cost £1183.00 with £200. match funding.

- 6.8.2 Need and Demand – The Community room is used most days and is an essential provision in the area. The regular coffee mornings and other activities are enjoyed by up to 40 people who are isolated and without transport. The links with young people are valued and use of the building is inter-generational.

6.9 British Red Cross - Young Carers

- 6.9.1 This application has been submitted by Shropshire young carers to cover the costs relating to 8 young people within LJC1 who attend organised activities as respite from their role as carer for family members. Peer support is vital for the young people and activities are focussed on the groups needs.

Total cost £749.68 with match funding available.

- 6.9.2 Need and demand – Red Cross provide essential service to young people and support and mentor each individual who in some cases are socially deprived due to their home situation.

6.10. 3 Parish Big Local – IT to work

6.10.1 This application is submitted on behalf of the group of volunteers that are pioneering the Big Local project across the 3 villages. Initial feedback from the community has highlighted the need to assist unemployed people back to work and offer collaborative

6.10.2 Need and demand – This project will be a pilot and support the 3 villages in identifying the needs of people in the area. The support from Shropshire Council Broadplace has been agreed and Job Centre colleagues have confirmed that support in local areas will be vital.

Total funds requested £1426. Match funding nil

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. **The next LJC next LJC meeting is scheduled to take place at 7.00pm on 26th February 2013 – All Saints Church Hall, Old Chirk Road, Gobowen SY11 3LL.**

Application closing date will be 25th January 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 Steve Davenport

Councillor Trevor Davies

Councillor David Lloyd

Appendices

None