



<u>Committee and date</u>
Ludlow and Clee Area Local Joint Committee
30 March 2011

<u>Item No</u>
<b>3</b>
Public

## Market Towns Revitalisation Programme Update

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### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Shropshire Council has made £2.5 million available to support the County's larger market towns of Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Oswestry and Whitchurch.
- 1.2 Ludlow has been allocated £400,000 to spend on capital projects that meet the criteria of this grant.

### 2.0 Criteria

- 2.1 The criteria for projects to be considered for funding are:
  - Offer a range of services and community facilities with good transport connections
  - Encourage good quality jobs to promote less out-commuting and to discourage the out-migration of young people
  - Ensure that towns have a good range of retail opportunities to discourage loss of retail spending in the town
  - Encourage jobs in new areas reducing the reliance on one or two main employers
  - Protect the town's 'natural, built and cultural heritage' and improve the quality of the environment
  - Encourage the town to become more sustainable, reducing carbon emissions
  - Promote the provision of a range of high quality housing types
  - Promote healthy, learning communities with an active cultural life
  - Addresses pockets of deprivation and worklessness
  - Encourage residents and businesses to engage in civic and community life of their towns

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 Shropshire Council has been very keen to ensure that projects coming forward for consideration enjoy the support of the local community and, in particular, Ludlow Town Council.
- 3.2 As such the Town Council was invited to administer the first stage of the invitation of submissions and to make its recommendations to local Shropshire Councillors of those schemes it considered to best meet the qualifying criteria.
- 3.3 This was achieved via a series of public meetings during February and March 2011 and the following projects were recommended to Shropshire Council:

#### **(a) Training Kitchen at Ludlow College**

Ludlow College is a great asset to the town occupying many historic buildings in and around Ludlow Town Centre. It provides further education locally to students, who help sustain local businesses particularly in the service industries.

The submitted project is to create a training kitchen and restaurant within the existing refectory at High Hall. This will enable the College to deliver high quality hospitality training for young people from September 2011.

The College has a major part of the funding but requires additional monies for capital outlay on fitting out the kitchen with professional catering equipment.

Research provided by local restaurateurs has identified that there is a workforce skills gap in hospitality in the south Shropshire area.

Currently students who want to qualify in this subject have to travel to either Shrewsbury or Hereford.

A number of local businesses have agreed to work with the college to deliver this project by offering work experience opportunities and master classes.

Total cost: £169,000

**Market Towns Revitalisation Funding: Recommendation £60,000**

#### **(b) Ludlow Conference Centre**

Health agencies in Ludlow are currently finalising plans to build a new hospital on the outskirts of the town which will include a teaching element in association with the Medical School of Keele University. Ludlow

Conference Centre, which acts as a field centre, is working with the University to provide accommodation for student Doctors whilst they undertake their work experience placements with local GP practices. This will be for 48 weeks of the year over the next 7 years.

Keele University is providing finance towards the upgrade of the living accommodation on the lower floor, but whilst this work is being done, the Conference Centre wishes to improve its existing accommodation on the first floor, to meet DDA, Health & Safety and Child Protection requirements.

The refurbished first floor would continue to provide accommodation for visiting parties and local organisations. This is currently mainly used by young people, schools and traders and theatre performers for the town's events.

Total cost: £447,000

**Market Towns Revitalisation Funding: Recommendation £100,000**

#### **(c) Ludlow Assembly Rooms**

Ludlow Assembly Rooms is currently reviewing its business operation on site which includes the physical layout and in-house catering.

The application relates to the capital cost of building alterations to the entrance/booking hall and updating of the kitchen/catering facilities.

Total cost: £ 100k+

**Market Towns Revitalisation Funding: Recommendation £70,000**

#### **(d) Ludlow Conservation Area Revitalisation Project**

This is a composite proposal subject to a Heritage Lottery Fund application. It involves repairs to Ludlow Town Walls, the repair and reordering of Castle Gardens and the refurbishment and conversion of The Buttercross to create an Interpretation and Visitor Information Centre for Ludlow.

The proposals will involve the sensitive enclosure of the ground floor of the Buttercross, the installation of a lift and equipment to support the new use.

The MTRP application relates solely to the Buttercross element of the composite proposal.

Total cost: £ £1.7 million

**Market Towns Revitalisation Funding: Recommendation £70,000**

- 3.4 Two further projects are currently being considered for Market Towns Revitalisation funding, Shropshire Council Officers are working with the applicants to develop these two applications, which will then be submitted to the Informal Project Board and Shropshire Councillors for approval

**(a) Ludlow Business Community Recycling Centre**

This project is a partnership between Shropshire Community Recycling Ltd and the South Shropshire Furniture Scheme to develop the Coder Road Waste Depot into a Business Waste Recycling Centre for Shropshire.

The facility will provide new recycling outlets for commercial waste, for materials including cardboard, wood and plastics

This project will provide employment, training and work experience for Shropshire people.

The applicants are seeking Market Towns Revitalisation Programme Funding coupled with the asset transfer of the Coder Road depot from Shropshire Council.

**(b) Skillbuilders**

Skillbuilders are seeking accommodation for an office, and space for the development of a Timber Skills Academy within Ludlow.

They are seeking to use the asset transfer of a Shropshire Council workshop and its equipment for this purpose

This project will provide the necessary space where skills can be passed on and work experience gained

- 3.5 Any updates on the progress of these schemes will be given at the meeting.
- 3.6 The Local Joint Committee will continue to report the progress of each scheme at its future meetings.

**List of Background Papers** (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)  
LJC application forms

**Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998

**Environmental Appraisal**

Not applicable

**Risk Management Appraisal**

All funding applications are assessed against agreed criteria which will minimise any risks associated with these projects

**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

None

**Cabinet Member**

Councillor G Butler

**Local Members**

Councillors R Huffer, Mrs T Huffer, M Taylor-Smith and Mrs R Taylor-Smith

**Appendices**

Nil