



Committee and Date

Meole Column & Sutton Local
Joint Committee

20 January 2010

7 pm

Item

9

Public

BUDGET ALLOCATION

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Summary

The report provides the Committee with details of bids for funding from the local budget. It requests that Members agree budget allocations for the provision of additional equipment and trips at Mereside Youth Club. In addition it is recommended that Members agree a contribution towards a project to support adults where English is not their first language. The report also highlights a bid received from Meole Estate Community Action and the work that is on-going to support the aims of this project via an alternative route.

Decisions Required

Members are asked to agree budget allocations as follows ;-

- A. contribution towards additional equipment and trips at Mereside Youth Club (£1,390).
- B. contribution towards a project to support adults where English is not their first language at Meole Children's Centre, Meole Brace Primary School (£2,721).

REPORT

Background

- 1. The Committee has a devolved budget of £36,000 for the 2009/10 financial year. This must be spent to improve services in the locality.
- 2. The Committee has the opportunity to use the budget for a variety of purposes. It can seek to enhance service provision within the area. It is possible to use the budget to implement local priorities through

enhanced service provision. The budget could also be used to offer grants to small scale local projects.

3. Any expenditure from the devolved budget must be in accordance with the Financial Procedures drawn up by Shropshire Council for the Local Joint Committees.
4. The bids received have considered existing service provision and deliver enhancements in a co-ordinated way. For example, the youth projects deliver additional / enhanced youth provision alongside the support that is already provided by the Shropshire Youth Service, West Mercia Police and other agencies.

Mereside Youth Club

5. Mereside Youth Club have requested a contribution for the purchase of additional equipment and trips for young people. Mereside Youth Club will use the additional equipment and trips to engage new members and expand the current group. The Youth Club aims to encourage young people to take part in positive activities whilst also making them aware of health/safety issues.
6. An application has been submitted for funding additional equipment and trips over and above those that would ordinarily be provided and the Committee are asked to agree allocating £1,390 to the Mereside Youth Club. Full details of the application are shown at Appendix A.

International Family Support Group

7. It has been highlighted that there is a need for a group to provide a comfortable environment for adults whose first language is not English where they can develop new skills and confidence whilst learning English as a foreign language. This pilot project aims to support adults that attend so that they feel confident enough to form a self-support group.
8. A bid has been received for £2,721 towards the establishment of the International Family Support Group. Details of the application are shown at Appendix B.

Meole Estate Community Action (MECA) Capacity Building

9. The Local Joint Committee has received a funding bid from the Meole Estate Community Action (MECA) for capacity building. The proposed project aims to deliver new user groups and activities on the Meole Estate.
10. The bid requests revenue funding for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years to cover salary costs. The Local Joint Committee financial procedures do not allow for the LJC budget to be committed to mainstream activities of the Council or for future years.

11. However, Shropshire Council is keen to support MECA in achieving the aims of the project. The Shropshire Council Community Working Team have offered to support MECA in capacity building on the Meole Estate. Shropshire Council officers have met with a representative from MECA and a further meeting is planned involving Severnside Housing to discuss how capacity building can be achieved.

Future Bids

12. Following the allocation of these budgets the Local Joint Committee has remaining funding of £23,854 to be spent of the 2009/10 budget. It has been confirmed that any underspend in 2009/10 can be carried forward to the next financial year. Bids for future funding should be addressed to:-

E-mail - communityworking@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone - 01743 253077

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

N/A

Human Rights Act Appraisal

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

Environmental Appraisal

Environmental appraisals will be carried out as necessary

Risk Management Appraisal

The Council addresses risk of legal challenge through the correct application of the LJC Constitution.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

None

Cabinet Member

Councillor Gwilym Butler – Portfolio Holder for Community Working and Customer Services

Local Member

Councillor Jon Tandy
Councillor Mike Owen
Councillor Ted Clarke
Councillor Liz Parsons
Councillor Kath Owen
Councillor Jackie Brennand

Appendices

- A. Mereside Youth Club
- B. International Family Support Group