

MEOLE, SUTTON AND COLUMN LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE 2011/12 FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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1. Summary

- This report considers the devolved funding allocated to the Meole, Sutton and Column Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1st April 2011 up until 31st March 2012.
- A total of £14,086 has been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for the 2011/12 year.
- The committee are asked to consider applications for funding from 6 projects supporting community based and led projects in the Meole, Sutton and Column areas.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the LJC prioritises its remaining funding for 2011/12 to support initiatives which help develop community-based and led projects in the Meole, Sutton and Column LJC area

2.2 That the LJC considers the applications received in the context of Community priorities as highlighted by Members and community led planning:

	Project	Amount requested
A	Senior Citizens Christmas lunch	£500
B	Meole Brace Scout and guide hut kitchen	£2284
C	PLA Toddler group at The Meet place	£2534
D	Songs for you	£500
E	Shrewsbury Hand bells	£2027.20
F	Community Committee training	£360

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1. In determining these recommendations the LJC 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, and in particular in those communities identified by local Councillors as not benefiting previously from LJC support

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The funding devolved to the LJC can be used for a number of different purposes over the year to address local priorities. Funding by the LJC must comply with the general Financial Rules for LJC.

5. Background

- 5.1 The Meole, Sutton and Column LJC is responsible for the award and expenditure of a devolved budget. The amount available to the LJC in 2011/12 has reduced as a result of Shropshire Council budget decisions, and a review of locality working in Shropshire. This amount has however been supplemented by the transfer of funding previously available for Community arts projects in to the LJC budgets.

- 5.2 The total amount therefore available to Meole, Sutton and Column LJC for 2011/12 is calculated as follows:

Total LJC electorate as at August 2010:	8722
Budget based on this electorate	£36,000
Amount available for 2011/12 following 50% budget reduction	£18,000
Minus 30% top slice of funding for Shrewsbury wide allocation	£5,400
Plus apportioned allocation of community arts budget	£1,486
TOTAL budget for 2011/12	£14,086

- 5.3 A Community Led plan survey was sent to all residents in the Meole, Sutton and Column areas, asking their thoughts and opinions on the areas they live in, services, facilities, the environment and planning. The main issues and priorities will then be set out as part of an action plan, whereby the communities will work in partnership with different service providers and organisations to fulfil the actions. LJC funding is available to support projects in connection with community identified priorities.

6. Additional Information

A Trinity Centre Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

Total project cost = £720

Match funding = yes

LJC grant request = £500

The Trinity Centre is applying for funding towards the 2011 Senior citizens Christmas lunch.

The total project cost is £720. MECA have granted £100 towards the event and the Trinity Churches will underwrite any of the extra costs.

The meal is open to any senior citizen in the Meole area.

It will consist of a three course meal, gift and entertainment.

For many of those attending it may be the only Christmas meal they will get and only opportunity to spend time with people.

The meal helps to combat social isolation, and can be used to link in with the luncheon club also held at the MEET place.

B Meole Brace Scout and Guide Hut new kitchen

Total project cost = £6068

Match funding = yes

LJC grant request = £2284

Meole Scouts and guide troop have requested the sum of £2,284 from LJC15 to go towards the provision of a new kitchen for the scout and guide hut.

The total project cost for providing a new kitchen with fridge, cooker and electric heaters is £6068.

The troop have raised £1500 towards the cost and 50% of the remaining amount has been secured in principle from LJC 11 but the caveat is that LJC15 is needs to provide the other 50% to access the other half.

The kitchen will:

- Support cooking/ baking awards
- Enhance sleepovers/activities that require catering to be provided
- Helps young people learn new skills

94 young people use the hut – Brownies, guides, scout groups x2 and cubs. 45% from LJC 11, 45% from LJC 15 and 10% from elsewhere.

24 adult volunteers

A new kitchen is part of the over all maintenance programme and would enable the hiring of the building to other organisations to raise funds to ensure the sustainability of the site.

C PLA Toddler group at The Meet Place

Total project cost = £2984

Match funding = yes

LJC grant request = £2534

The PLA, pre-school learning alliance, is looking for funding to provide a Toddler group on the Meole estate. This will provide a meeting place for parents with very young children, where they can provide mutual support and

advice and also have support from a professional facilitator, experienced in working with families and young children.

The group will offer the opportunity for children to play together with good quality educational toys. Parents will be encouraged to communicate, interact and play with their children and the facilitator will explain the benefits of different types of play activities for the children's emotional and social development. In line with the new government guidelines the group will promote the need for babies and young children to have the opportunity for several hours free physical play each day and modelling floor play activities.

Families using the group will also be able to participate in the new Healthy Tots Growing Together Project which is funded by the Big Lottery Local Food programme. Over seven sessions families will have the opportunity to plant seeds, fruit and vegetables, taste local seasonal food, learn how and where to source good quality locally grown food and do lots of related fun activities.

Funding would pay for equipment, room hire, facilitator – the group would then be encouraged to run the group for themselves and fundraise to keep it sustainable as well as learning new skills.

As a third sector organisation, the Pre-school learning alliance will be called on more and more to support the public sector initiatives- this project will build capacity on the Meole estate and support the work already taking place in the area with Children's centre services.

D

Songs for you

Total project cost	=	£4043
Match funding	=	yes
LJC grant request	=	£500

Songs for You is an Arts for Health intervention aimed at people with dementia and their carers. A project that the couples would come to together as a way of enjoying a creative activity together and on an equal basis in a community setting.

The Arts for Health programme aims to engage with service users and staff in creative activities and events that can benefit their mental health and well-being and that improve and enhance the environments in which patients are being treated and staff work. One area of work that we are currently striving to develop is Singing for people with Dementia and their carers.

The singing sessions have been run at the Trinity centre as a trial and they have found the sessions very positive so far and there is a strong demand for these sessions to continue and develop – there being nothing quite like it available for this target group in the county. It is open to all.

The current series has also offered valuable opportunities for an assistant musician who was looking for experience in this field, plus two volunteers who have been invaluable.

Another idea for the development is to introduce an intergenerational aspect to the project – linking with Meole Brace Primary and working on songs initially independently and bringing the two groups – older people and young

children together to share their versions. This has proved very successful elsewhere in the country and we would be keen to introduce this aspect. The funding would enable the group to continue running after the trial and be open for more people in the area to benefit.

E Shrewsbury Hand bells

Total project cost = £2027.20
Match funding = no
LJC grant request = £2027.20

Shrewsbury Hand bells have applied for £2027.20 to buy three hand bells and carry cases. The group plays concerts around the county but hold rehearsals in the Meole, Sutton and column area. They have also played concerts in the area- latest being at the Pro-star stadium for the carnival committee. New bells would enhance the group's repertoire and enable more people to join the group. This in turn would help them to raise more money for charity.

F Community Committee training

Total project cost = £459
Match funding = yes
LJC grant request = £360

Mereside Community centre association are applying for £360 to enable them to provide three Community Council of Shropshire Training sessions;

- Effective committee meetings,
- Engaging with the community and
- Roles and responsibilities for a charity trustee.

The sessions would be open to their current committee members and anyone from the Meole Sutton and Column LJC area that would also be interested in attending. The purpose of the training would be to increase the knowledge and understanding of committees and how they work successfully, engage with the community and help them to work more effectively at same time as encouraging others in the community to get involved with the Centre, set up their own group or support existing groups.

The training will offer the opportunity for people to gain new skills and share experience.

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 – 2013/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13th January 2011.

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

LJC application forms for the projects listed

Meole Sutton and Column Community led plan report Aug 2011

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Gwilym Butler- Portfolio holder for partnership working, performance and productivity and customer service.

Local Member

Shropshire Councillors – Mike Owen, Jon Tandy, Liz Parsons, Ted Clarke

Appendices

None