



Committee and Date
Oswestry Local Joint
Committee

3 December 2009

6.30pm

Item/Paper

11

Public

Decision Report for Oswestry Local Joint Committee

Devolved Budget and Community Chest

Responsible Officer George Candler – Assistant Director Culture and Leisure
e-mail: george.candler@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 255003 Fax 01743 255001

Summary

At the meeting of the Local Joint Committee on 1 July 2009, £16,000 of the Committee's devolved budget of £54,000 was allocated to establish a Community Chest.

Community Groups were invited to apply for funding for projects up to a maximum of £2,000 with all eligible bids being considered by Members of the Committee.

This report considers the applications received by 30 October 2009 and provides an update on the devolved budget.

Recommendations

A - It is recommended that the Oswestry Local Joint Committee allocate funding to the following organisations and their projects:

Oswestry Senior Citizens Club – Kitchen / Club Building Project	£251.00
Oswestry Pubwatch – Robocams	£915.35
Oswestry and District Association for the Elderly – Dancing Sessions for the Elderly	£500.00
Oswestry Online – Oswestry Online	£1,092.99
Bromford Support and New Century Court – Activ8 and Motiv8	£2,000.00

B – It is recommended that the Oswestry Local Joint Committee defers the decision on whether or not to fund the following project until the next meeting of the Committee on 8 March 2010:

Cambrian Heritage Railways Limited – Oswestry Station Platform	£2,000.00
--	-----------

C – It is recommended that the Oswestry Local Joint Committee does not fund the following project:

Oswestry Twinning Association – 30th Anniversary of twinning with Comb La Ville £1,000.00

D – It is recommended that the Oswestry Local Joint Committee commits an additional £8,000 to the Community Chest fund leaving a balance of £30,000 of uncommitted funds in the Local Joint Committee's devolved budget.

E - It is recommended that the Oswestry Local Joint Committee makes £2,000 available from its 2011/12 budget, once this is agreed, to the St Oswald's Organ Restoration Appeal Fund Committee.

F – The Oswestry Local Joint Committee notes the application made by Oswestry Town Council for the restoration of the Powis Hall in Oswestry and notes the potential financial implication that this has for the Committees budget.

Background

1. At the Implementation Executive on 19 March 2009 it was determined that there will be 28 Local Joint Committee's for the new Shropshire Council. A devolved budget of £54,000 has been allocated to the Oswestry Local Joint Committee based on its electorate (12,976).
2. The Constitution governing Local Joint Committee's states:
 - Each Local Joint Committee (LJC) has a delegated budget which will be confirmed on an annual basis.
 - The LJC must use the standard guidelines and application form when granting funding to third parties.
 - The LJC budgets will be subject to Shropshire Council's audit procedures.

Report

Community Chest

3. The first round of bids were considered by Members in September with £ 8,111.80 worth of funding being agreed, leaving an available budget of £7,888.20 for this round of bids.
4. The closing date for applications to be considered at the December LJC meeting was 30 October 2009.
5. By the closing date 7 applications had been received, totalling £ 8,259.34 all of which meet the key eligibility criteria and are under consideration by Members at this meeting. Further information on those projects recommended for funding are shown at Appendix A.

6. It is being recommended that the Local Joint Committee defers the decision on whether or not to fund the application made by Cambrian Heritage Railways Limited to refurbish part of the Oswestry Station platform and the railway line. This is to allow officers an opportunity to clarify a number of points with the applicants, particularly regarding the outcomes that could be expected from the grant monies.
7. It is recommended that the Oswestry Local Joint Committee does not fund the application made by the Oswestry Twinning Association for the 30th anniversary of twinning with Comb La Ville. The grant would have been used as a contribution towards the cost of the civic lunch and because of this it is difficult to ascertain the wider community benefits of this project.
8. The recommendations have been made on an assessment of each application against the rules of the Local Joint Committee and the Community Chest rules as set out in the decision report by the Committee on 1 July 2009. It must be noted that, the Committee has the authority to fund any eligible project considered on a case by case basis.

Budget Implications

9. The bids recommended for agreement total £4,759.34 which is within the available budget of £7,888.20.
10. The Community Chest has proved to be popular with local community groups and voluntary organisations, recognising this, it is being recommended (D) that an additional £8,000 is committed to the Community Chest fund, from the devolved budget. This would leave £30,000 of uncommitted funds in the Committee's devolved budget.
11. Should recommendation D be agreed by Members the Community Chest fund will stand at £11,128.86.
12. The chest would be subject to the Financial Procedure Notes drawn up by Shropshire Council for the Local Joint Committees and subject to the rules agreed by the Committee on 1 July 2009 as set out below and detailed on the application form.
 - The maximum amount that can be allocated to any one project is £2,000.
 - Applications are limited to one per organisation. In exceptional circumstances more than one application from an organisation may be considered.
13. The closing date for the applications which will be considered at the meeting of the Committee on 8 March is **Friday 5 February 2010**.
14. Applications to the Community Chest must be made using the agreed application form which will be available at the meeting. It will also be available from Shropshire Council's Website (www.shropshire.gov.uk), or by telephoning Nicki Young, Community Regeneration Officer on 01939 237430 or by e-mail nicki.young@shropshire.gov.uk, or the Lead Officer on the above contacts)

Deferred Application

15. In September, Members agreed to defer the decision on whether or not to fund the application from the St Oswald's Organ Restoration Appeal Fund Committee for £2,000 to allow Officers to collect further information on the project and to confirm its eligibility (as it will not start until 2012, meaning that although the money would have been committed in this financial year it will not be spent for three years). It is being recommended (E) that £2,000 should be made available from the 2011/2012 devolved budget once this is confirmed. This demonstrates the support that the Local Joint Committee gives to the restoration of the organ however, in order to be prudent, the application will be reviewed during the 2011/2012 financial year.

Oswestry Town Council Application for Funding

16. An application for funding has been submitted to the LJC by Oswestry Town Council. In summary, the Town Council have applied for £10,000 towards the refurbishment of the Powis Hall in Oswestry. As six of the Committee's Members are members of Oswestry Town Council, those Members would not be able to take part in the decision making for this application and thus the meeting would not be quorate. Given these circumstances it is anticipated that the decision will be made on whether or not to allocate funding to the project by Shropshire Council's Cabinet.

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

1. Locality Working – New ways of working – Implementation Executive 19 March 2009
2. Oswestry Local Joint Committee – Community Chest decision report – 1 July 2009
3. Oswestry Local Joint Committee – Community Chest decision report – 22 September 2009

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations are unlikely to result in any implications for the Human Rights Act.

Environmental Appraisal

Environmental appraisals will be carried out as necessary.

Risk Management Appraisal

The Council needs to address the risk of legal challenge to decisions through procedural or other errors. This has been carefully assessed.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

None

Cabinet Member

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

Local Member

Councillor Keith Barrow
Councillor Martin Bennett
Councillor Vince Hunt
Councillor Bill Benyon

Appendices

Appendix A – Applications / projects recommended for funding

Applications / Projects Recommended for Funding

Ref	Organisation and Project Overview	What will the grant pay for?	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
G	Oswestry Senior Citizens Club – Kitchen / Club Building Project	Purchase of a printer and two hot plates to generate savings to be invested in the refurbishment of the club.	£251	£251.00
K	Oswestry Pubwatch – Robocams	Purchase of 1 Robocam camera to be worn by door supervisors at late night venues in Oswestry to continue to improve the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour in Oswestry Town Centre.	£915.35	£915.35
L	Oswestry and District Association for the Elderly – Dancing sessions for the elderly	To provide tea dances for the elderly to include the hire of room, music provider, refreshments and door to door transport	£1,000	£500.00
M	Oswestry Online – Oswestry Online – this group aims to bring to the community a “one stop” website detailing many local events, including music gigs, sports activities and community events.	Towards the purchase of equipment and towards the marketing and promoting Oswestry Online.	£1092.99	£1092.99
N	Bromford Support & New Century Court – Activ8 and Motiv8	Towards the purchase of equipment, furnishing and IT equipment to provide facilities for and support to young homeless people	£2,000 (£3,010.74)	£2000.00