



Committee and Date
Oswestry Local Joint
Committee

16 February 2012

7.00pm

Item

10

Public

2011/12 OSWESTRY LJC BUDGET REPORT AND FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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1. Summary

This report considers the devolved funding allocated to the Oswestry Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1 April 2011 up until 31 March 2012.

A total of £42,195 has been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for the 2011/12 year.

Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations.

Nine applications have been received for this reporting period. These have been considered at the planning meeting held on 24 January. The recommendations from the planning meeting feature in this report, and are put forward to the LJC to be held on 16 February 2012.

2. Recommendations

- A. That the LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report.
- B. That the LJC allocates any underspend in its 2011/12 budget towards the priority of a Phase 2 town centre signage project.
- C. That the LJC delegates any art-specific funding it receives as part of its 2012/2013 budget to Oswestry & District Arts Association, to enable it to continue to run its arts grants programme in the Oswestry area.
- D. That the LJC delegates 5% of its 2012/2013 budget to Oswestry & District Sports Council to enable it to continue to run its sports grants programme in the Oswestry area.
- E. That the LJC adopts a mechanism for approving applications between LJC meetings by using the Community Action Manager's delegated authority and where all members of the Committee are in approval. This is not designed to replace decision making at meetings, but to be used when it is in the interest of an applicant to receive a decision between meetings.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 In determining these recommendations 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

The funding devolved to the LJC can be used for a number of different purposes over the year. The Committee has allocated funds to specific purposes at a previous meeting and has indicated that it will continue to receive applications from local organisations for eligible purposes. Funding by the LJC must comply with the general Financial Rules for LJC's.

5. Background

The Oswestry 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, and some under spend carried forward from 2010/11. This is the final year that any carry forward of under spend will be permitted.

The total amount available to Oswestry LJC is calculated as follows:

Total LJC electorate as at August 2010:	16,846
Budget based on this electorate	£27,000
Plus apportioned allocation of community arts budget	£ 2,265
Plus carry forward of under spend	£12,930
TOTAL budget for 2011/12	£42,195

6. Additional Information

Applications for funding were considered at the LJC planning meeting on 24 January and recommendations totalling £10, 663 are now put forward to the Oswestry LJC for consideration. These are as follows:

	Project name	£
C2	Monkmoor Court Community Group – resources and equipment for the tenants' room to enable a variety of new activities to take place.	785
C3	Oswestry Community Action – workshops within schools to design and create Olympic torches, which can be used by the children at the torch relay procession and the Community Games.	1,430

C4	Oswestry Library Homework Club – running the homework club for one year.	2,000
C6	Helping Hands Association – cost of a Christmas meal for the group and their travel costs on the day.	300
C7	Oswestry Senior Citizens Club – replacement of a CCTV system on their building.	1,148
C8	Oswestry Season Brochure Working Group – design and print of a brochure publicising cultural activity in Oswestry during 2012 and the creation of a complementary website.	3,000
C9	Oswestry Town Council – delegation of funding to support a small grants scheme for community activity to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in 2012.	2,000
	TOTAL	£10,663

In addition, it is recommended the following applications are deferred.

C1	<p>Oswestry University of the Third Age – funding for laptops, software, insurance, tuition and accommodation costs for computer courses for U3A members.</p> <p>ACTION – the Community Action Manager will work with the U3A to explore alternative ways of achieving delivery of the courses that doesn't have to involve the purchase of hardware or paying accommodation costs</p>	£9,770.00
C5	<p>Oswestry Multi-Cultural Ladies Group – funding for a project which aims to raise health awareness and the emotional well-being of minority ethnic women in Oswestry.</p> <p>ACTION – the Community Action Manager will work with representatives of the group and the Health Trust to develop the long term outcomes of the project</p>	£1,750.00

	2011/12 budget	£42,195
	Total of recommendations 20/09/11	£10,663
	Spend to date in 2011/12	£31,230
	Balance remaining	£ 302

Future Funding

In view of the reduced funding available, at a planning meeting of the LJC on 2 September 2012 it was recommended that the following priority themes for the Oswestry LJC are adopted –

1. Economic development – supporting the economy of the town and improving employment opportunities

2. Activities for young people and older people, especially those which encourage healthier living
3. Building capacity into the voluntary sector and supporting sustainable development, as opposed to dependency
4. Improving the local environment – built and natural
5. Celebrating our local heritage
6. Art and culture development
7. Sports development

Future applicants to the Oswestry LJC should bear these priorities in mind when considering whether it is appropriate to submit a funding application.

For information about applying for an LJC grant and to get an application form, contact Kate Garner, Community Action Manager on 01691 677318 or at kate.garner@shropshire.gov.uk

The closing date for the next application round is Friday 20 April 2012.

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 13 January 2011.

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

LJC application forms for the projects listed.

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Gwilym Butler – Flourishing Shropshire Communities

Local Member

Shropshire Councillors – Keith Barrow, Martin Bennett, Bill Benyon, Vince Hunt

Appendices

- A. Summary of applications received for the LJC meeting 16 February 2012