

## 2013/14 DRAFT FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report considers the devolved funding allocated to the Oswestry Area Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1 April 2013 up until 31 March 2014.
- 1.2 A total of £29,650 has been devolved to the committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2013/14.
- 1.3 A planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations to be taken to the LJC where decisions will be made.
- 1.4 Fourteen applications have been received for this reporting period. These were considered at the planning meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013. The recommendations from the planning meeting are listed in this report.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the LJC delegates any art-specific funding it receives as part of its 2013/2014 budget to Oswestry & District Arts Association, to enable it to continue to run its arts grants programme in the Oswestry area.
- 2.2 That the LJC delegates and sport specific funding it receives a part of its 2013/2014 budget to Oswestry & District Sports Society, to enable it to continue to run its grants programme in the Oswestry area.
- 2.3 That the LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report. The recommendation is to approve or not approve the following funding applications as detailed:

	Group	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Recommended
1	Hope Church 'Capturing Hope'	£590.00	£270.00	<b>Referred to ODAA</b>
2	Maesbury Metals	£2,325.00	£2,325.00	
3	Empathy For Special Children	£3,120.00	£1,620.00	

	Oswestry Group			
4	Oswestry Borders University of The Third Age	£1,253.51	£1,253.51	
5	Oswestry & District Branch of the Shropshire Voluntary Helping Hand Association.	£500.00	£500.00	<b>Withdrawn by applicant.</b>
6	Oswestry Youth Cafe	£595.00	£300.00	<b>Full request approved under devolved powers.</b>
7	Oswestry Senior Citizens Club	£780.00	£780.00	
8	Fusion Arts	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	<b>Full request approved under devolved powers.</b>
9	Cabin Lane Church	£700.00	£500.00	<b>£150.00 approved under devolved powers.</b>
10	Oswestry Rugby Club	£10,000.00	£2,000.00	<b>£750.00 approved under devolved powers.</b>
11	U&I Counselling	£17,950.00	£4,440.00	
12	Eastern Oswestry Greenspace Association	£790.00	£790.00	
13	Oswestry Regal Project	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	
14	Oswestry & District Sports Society		£1,350.00	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£20,128.51</b>	

## REPORT

### 3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 In determining this recommendation 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

- 4.1 The funding devolved to the LJC can be used for a number of different purposes over the year. At the present time, the Committee has not allocated funds to any specific purposes but has indicated that it will receive applications from local organisations for eligible purposes. Funding by the LJC must comply with the general Financial Rules for LJC's.

## 5. Background

- 5.1 From 1 April 2009 Shropshire Council created 28 Local Joint Committees (LJC) to operate across the whole of Shropshire. The LJCs are legally constituted decision making Committees of Shropshire Council
- 5.2 The LJC for Oswestry Town has membership from Shropshire Council (4 members) and Town councils (4 members) all with equal voting rights.
- 5.3 One of the responsibilities of the LJC is to determine expenditure of the devolved budget. A budget of £ 29,650 has been made available to the LJC for the current financial year. This is made up of £27,000 from the LJC budget; £2,270 from the arts funding which has been transferred to the LJC and £380.00 carryover from this LJCs' 2012/13 budget. The total recommended value for projects put forward in this round total £20,128.51 leaving a remaining balance £2,979.49 for consideration of deferred requests, future funding requests and priorities set by members.
- 5.4 The committee have agreed that the annual budget should be equally split between the three meetings and under spend carried forward to the next meeting.

## 6. Additional Information

- 6.1 A summary of applications has been compiled and included below.

### 6.2 Hope Church & Qube 'Capturing Hope' Art Exhibition

- 6.2.1 This project has been submitted by Hope Church (Previously Carreg Llwyd) and Qube. Hope Church has recently changed its name and wishes to get the whole town involved in the name change. From this a town-wide photo competition with the theme 'Capturing Hope'. They also have a number of art pieces based on 'hope' that they wish to exhibit created by community groups across the spectrum. The plan is to have an exhibition of the work to give those people creating the art a sense of ownership and achievement.
- 6.2.2 Need and demand – The project offers an opportunity for community integration, targeting a wide variety of groups. However, the costs being requested are not for the project and instead for the exhibition. Some of these costs may not be appropriate for the LJC to fund such as refreshments. Project fits more with the remit of Oswestry & District Arts Association (ODAA) Grants. Application should be withdrawn and applicant should apply to ODAA.

#### 6.2.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£590.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Status</b>
Qube (time in kind)	160.00	Confirmed
Hope Church (time in kind)	160.00	Confirmed
Oswestry LJC	270.00	Applied

<b>Total</b>	<b>590.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£270.00</b>	

### 6.3 **Maesbury Metals Plus – Plasma Cutter and Forge Purchase**

6.3.1 This request has been submitted by Maesbury Metals. The current plasma cutter is unreliable and incurring regular repair bills and inability to use. This is detrimental to their ability to bring in money. The request is also for a forge; the current way they have to heat the metal is dangerous and can only be done by the fully trained blacksmith on site. With the purchase of a forge the ALD workers would be able to be involved with much more of the process in a safe and controlled way to ensure their safety. Due to the fact this is a Shropshire Council venture there is very limited option to approach outside funding streams.

6.3.2 Need and demand – The project offers people with Learning Disabilities the chance to work. They produce items that are purchased by the public. Without reliable equipment they are unable to meet the needs of the venture. Recent advertising has had a positive impact on their orders and interest in their products. With current equipment they are unable to meet demand. Given these items, they will have greater ability to be sustainable for the future and pose less demand on Shropshire Council funding.

#### 6.3.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£2,325.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Status</b>
Oswestry LJC	2,325.00	Applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,325.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£2,325.00</b>	

### 6.4 **Empathy for Special Children Oswestry Group**

6.4.1 This request has been submitted by a group originally formed in Ludlow. A new arm of the group has been set up in Oswestry around 12 months ago. The group is primarily for children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions and their parents. It is a friendship group that meets fortnightly. Exclusive hire of a large venue they feel ensures the group can provide a range of activities in a safe environment. Parents pay £3.00 per session but this only covers the cost of snack and materials for creative sessions.

6.4.2 Need and demand – The group attract 10 – 15 children per session. There are few groups catering for this client group that I am aware of. Concern is that the group is unable to be self-sufficient as they do not raise funds independently and rely on funding sought through applications. The money that is paid by

attendees of £3.00 per session could be better utilised to pay towards the necessary bills rather than snacks and drinks which could be brought along by individuals rather than supplied.

#### 6.4.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£3,120.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Status</b>
Parent Contributions	1,000.00	Unconfirmed
Donations	500.00	Secured
LJC	1,620.00	Applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,120.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£1,620.00</b>	

### 6.5 Oswestry Borders U3A

#### 6.5.1 Oswestry Borders U3A currently meets on the first and third Wednesday afternoon of the month in The Centre, Oak Street, Oswestry.

Speaker and members' meetings need the facilities provided by a projector. The overall purpose of purchasing a projector is to enable the use of simple slides with bold text, photographs etc., in a small hall with partial black out. The audience will not require maximum resolution but it does need to see enough detail to be able to read, for instance, the captions.

A laptop is mainly to be used as a platform from which speakers run their displays. With regard to the laptop, the fewer programmes that are installed means there are less updating and potential problems. They need to be usable by as many members as possible expressly if to be used by the interest groups, and as a training tool.

Oswestry Borders U3A is a rapidly growing branch with currently just short of 100 members who will all benefit from the equipment purchase proposals. The Centre, it is understood, is purchasing a screen which it has kindly agreed to make available for use at U3A meetings. Hence, this bid does not request funding for a large screen for use at The Centre, Oak Street, Oswestry.

However, it is intended to loan the laptop to members in support of interest group activity (currently circa 20 separate interest groups and growing) which generally takes place in members' homes. For that purpose, the purchase of a small Tripod screen is deemed necessary and has been included within the costings.

#### 6.5.2 Need and demand – Most speakers expect the use of a projector and laptop to support their presentations at U3A meetings. It is essential to have equipment that is fit for purpose as many members, being of the Third Age, experience hearing and sight problems. The equipment proposals as far as possible will

ensure a professional delivery by speakers that everyone can benefit from even if they are seated at the back of the hall.

Some members also benefit from giving Powerpoint presentations to interest groups in members' homes as earlier referred to. As well as enhancing the IT skills of members in this way, the resultant presentations are more professional and provide a better learning experience for all. This mode of study has been evidenced by the Art Appreciation Group within Oswestry U3A, where Powerpoint presentations were successfully deployed in the study of artists and sculptors. It is an area of continual growth and development. As the number of interest groups increase, so the need for individuals to work on Powerpoint presentations grows.

### 6.5.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£1,253.51</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Status</b>
LJC	1,253.51	Applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,253.51</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£1,253.51</b>	

## 6.6 Oswestry & District Branch of the Shropshire Voluntary Helping Hand Association (HHA)

6.6.1 HHA provides outings for their members who would otherwise be unable or struggle, assisting with transport and activities. Transport is more difficult due to the loss of the county ambulance making the group reliant upon taxi's or Dial a Ride. They have an afternoon tea planned for 10<sup>th</sup> October and would like to request some funding support from Oswestry LJC to allow this to go ahead.

6.6.2 Need and demand – The club provides a social outlet for adults with physical disabilities. The request has been made to fund transport costs at £200.00 which I have made suggestion could be covered by their members' DLA mobility payments. The rest of the cost £300.00 is for the afternoon tea food, drink and entertainment.

### 6.6.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£500.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Status</b>
LJC	500.00	Applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>500.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£500.00</b>	

## 6.7 Oswestry Youth Café (OYC) – Summer Activities

6.7.1 Oswestry Youth Café is an established youth provision in Oswestry. They made a request for £300.00 to provide a number of sessions over the Summer Holidays specifically aimed at teenage girls. Due to the time scales of the activities the request was made to look at the application under devolved powers.

6.7.2 Need and Demand – OYC consulted with attendees and found that teenage girls felt intimidated by the boy attendees and that some specific activities for girls would be positive in engaging with this group. The application was made and considered under devolved powers. The application was agreed.

6.7.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£595.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Status</b>
OYC Contribution	245.00	Confirmed
LJC	300.00	Applied
Attendee Contribution	50.00	Confirmed
<b>Total</b>	<b>595.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£300.00</b>	

## 6.8 Oswestry Senior Citizens Centre – Additional Seating

6.8.1 Oswestry Senior Citizens Club is a well-established group that owns its own premises in Lorne Street. Recently they have been informed that the Learning disability Day Service will be moving to a new venue. This will have an impact upon their income. The Day Centre also has a number of chairs at the venue that may or may not be taken with them when they move. Should this happen there will not be enough seating for the senior citizens.

6.8.2 Need and Demand – The club is well supported with members. Plans for the Learning disability Service to move out of the centre is not planned for another 6+ months. They have also yet to decide the fate of the current furniture. With the move being to a specialist facility the furniture may no longer be appropriate for their needs. If this is the case the Centre may be able to retain the furniture. It appears to be too soon for the application to be made on this case. Maybe it would be better considered in the February round.

6.8.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£780.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Status</b>
LJC application	780.00	Applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>780.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£780.00</b>	

## 6.9 Fusion Arts – Summer Diversionary Events x 3

6.9.1 Fusion Arts is an established Community Interest Company. They applied for funding to have three events over the Summer Holidays aimed at providing diversionary activities for teenagers in Oswestry. The events planned were utilising the green space available in Oswestry holding them at Gatacre, Wilfred Owen Green and Cae Glass Park. Due to the time scales of the events the funding was considered under devolved powers.

6.9.2 Need and Demand – It is a well-documented fact that there is a limited number of activities available to teenagers in Oswestry. The events would be an opportunity to give the teenagers of Oswestry to use the green space available in a positive way. The application was approved to provide the events under devolved powers.

6.9.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£1000.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Status</b>
LJC Application	1000.00	Applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£1,000.00</b>	

## 6.10 Cabin Lane Church – Childrens Holiday Club

6.10.1 Cabin Lane Church provides places for up to 60 children to spend a week at their summer holiday club. Various activities are provided throughout the week including making use of their community garden. The club is aimed specifically at ages 2-6 years.

6.10.2 Need and Demand – Cabin Lane church state that the club is annually run and each year over subscribed. Some of the items requested were deemed inappropriate to be funded by the LJC and so a figure of £150.00 was agreed under devolved powers towards the cost of the club.

6.10.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£700.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£700.00</b>	<b>Status</b>
Cabin Lane Church	200.00	Confirmed
Oswestry LJC	500.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>700.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£500.00</b>	

## 6.11 Oswestry Rugby Club (ORC) – Pitch improvement Work

6.11.1 ORC is a well-established sports club providing training and competition to youth and adults in the area. They are planning work to improve the main pitch, to allow this to happen without disruption to the players the second pitch needs to be raised to a better standard. There are tight time scales on the work and so the application has been considered under devolved powers.

6.11.2 Need and demand – ORC is well supported locally and has a number of attendees and members. The application was considered under devolved powers and it was agreed to give £750.00 towards the work needed.

### 6.11.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£10,000.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£10,000.00</b>	<b>Status</b>
Club Funds	1,000.00	Confirmed
5 Perry's LJC	2000.00	Confirmed
RFU	5000.00	Applied
Oswestry LJC	2000.00	Applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£2,000.00</b>	

## 6.12 U&I Counselling – Adult Children and Young People Counselling Project

6.12.1 U&I Counselling has been established in Oswestry since 2011. Since their creation their client base has grown constantly. So far this year they have helped 197 people. As a voluntary organisation they are reliant upon donations and ask for £3.00 per session from attendees. The service is utilised by schools, GP's and council services.

6.12.2 Need and Demand – The service is well utilised and their referral number continue to grow. The service has a positive impact upon statutory service take up reducing the need on Shropshire Council and NHS. The service is well used by the clients and feedback from people who use the service is very positive. Stronger funding links need to be made to ensure longer term sustainability.

### 6.12.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£17,950.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£17,950.00</b>	<b>Status</b>
U&I Funds	5,000.00	Secured
Projected income via donations	8,560.00	
Oswestry LJC	4,440.00	Applied
<b>Total</b>		
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£4,440.00</b>	

### 6.13 Eastern Oswestry GreenSpace Association (EOGA) – Set up costs

6.13.1 EOGA was established recently to support the maintenance and future of the green spaces of Eastern Oswestry. Local residents have formed the EOGA and help the statutory services to maintain the spaces. They have had their launch event which was a success. They have plans to do more events that promote positive use of the green spaces.

6.13.2 Need and demand – The EOGA has a positive impact on promoting positive use of green spaces reducing vandalism and inappropriate use of the spaces. The group also assist in reducing the cost to Shropshire Council in maintenance costs. With reductions in resources available to the council groups like these are a positive way to maintain the green spaces and not allow them to fall into poor repair.

#### 6.13.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£790.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£790.00</b>	<b>Status</b>
LJC application	790.00	Applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>790.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£790.00</b>	

### 6.14 Oswestry Regal Project – Pre-Feasibility Study

6.14.1 The Oswestry regal Project is a group that would like to have a central multi-purpose venue/community centre. They believe there is a need for a 250 seat theatre space, 100 seat cinema and other ancillary functions in the town. The Old Regal Cinema site is preferred choice for this due to its history and capacity.

6.14.2 Need and demand – there has been some work done by the group and positive feedback has been gained informally for the project. They would like to complete a pre-feasibility study to gain more concrete information on the need of the project and so are applying for the funding of the study.

#### 6.14.3

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>£3,000.00</b>	
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Status</b>
Oswestry LJC	3,000.00	Applied
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	
<b>Request to LJC</b>	<b>£3,000.00</b>	

## Conclusions

7. The applications recommended were considered to be of benefit to the community, following need, demand and assessment checklist. The LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report.

8.0 The next LJC meeting is scheduled to take place at 7pm, Thursday, 26th September 2013

8.1 Bids for future funding should be address to:

Steve White  
Community Enablement Officer  
Northern Area Community Action Team  
Shropshire Council  
Castle View  
Oswestry  
SY11 1JR  
Phone: 01691 677287  
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<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12-2012/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2011-07-04
Locality Working Local joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2010
<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b>
Councillor Gwilym Butler
<b>Local Member</b>
Councillor Keith Barrow Councillor Martin Bennett Councillor Peter Cherrington Councillor Vince Hunt
<b>Appendices</b>
None