

**2013/14 DRAFT FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING
REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION****Responsible Officer** Steve White

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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 Ten applications have been received for this reporting period. These were considered at the planning meeting held on 6th February 2014. 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	Lakelands Academy Technology in the Community	£39,500.00	£928.75	£0.00
2	Oswestry Library Homework Club	£3,500.00	£1,500.00	£500.00
3	Shropshire Scouts	£1,130.00	£282.50	£282.50
4	Oswestry Community Integration Event	£500.00	£250.00	£0.00
5	Oswestry Otters	£2,150.00	£1,675.00	£0.00
6	Happy Hour Summer Activities	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
7	Oswestry Photographic Society	£2,939.00	£400.00	£400.00
8	Oswestry CAP	£7,000.00	£4,000.00	£4,000.00
9	Intrepid CiC	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
10	Oswestry Cricket Club	£15,000.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
	Total		£23,036.25	£18,182.50

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 LJC's 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 LJC's' 2012/13 budget.

6. Additional Information

6.1 Money that has been ring fenced at previous meetings but not been agreed and paid to the applicant need to be reviewed at the final meeting of the year (March 2014). There are two amounts of ring fenced monies:

6.1.1 **Oswestry Senior Citizens Club** – To purchase chairs for use in the Lorne Street building once the Learning Disabilities Day Centre withdraws from this site.

6.1.2 **Oswestry Regal Project** – To complete a feasibility study on the potential purchase and conversion of the Regal Cinema Building into a theatre and arts venue for Oswestry.

6.2 A summary of applications for this meeting has been compiled and included below.

6.3 Lakelands School – Technology in the Community

6.3.1 Lakelands School have been successful in a funding bid to create a new 2 story build. The Academy is looking to find funding to equip the upper classroom to deliver the most effective learning/interactive experience for students and wider community. The development of this would create an enhanced learning experience to the students. Oswestry Residents make up 7.43% of the students at Lakelands Academy. The technology would also be open to use by evening class students and wider community when not in use by Students.

6.3.2 Advances in technology make conferencing and communicating with others around the globe much more achievable. This technology comes at a cost above the possibility of the academy at this time. There would measurable potential to enhance the learning experience and the teaching methods for the students with a range of abilities. Increasingly younger people are more technology reliant and literate.

6.3.3

Total Project Costs	£39,500.00	
Project Funding	£39,500.00	Status
Phase 1 Academy contribution	11,000.00	Secured
Phase 1 LJC grant Request	3,500.00	Applied
Cluster & Other Grants	12,500.00	Applied
Phase 2 Academy Contribution	12,500.00	Secured
Total	£39,500.00	
Request to LJC	£928.75	

6.4 **Oswestry library Homework Club**

6.4.1 Oswestry Library has run a homework club for a number of years. Due to financial constraints the Library is no longer able to subsidise the running costs of the club. The club is run by a qualified teacher offering support to children 8-14 years. The sessions are 3 hours per week and are in addition to the general education delivered by the local schools. It is assistive in providing the additional support sometimes needed by pupils. Also there is a demand by eastern European

6.4.2 Need and demand – The club has been helpful in raising the aspirations and educational abilities of local young people who either want to push themselves further or need assistance to meet a general standard of education. They have good attendance numbers and there is currently no similar scheme known.

6.4.3

Total Project Costs	£3,500.00	
Project Funding	£3,500.00	Status
Charlotte Hartey Foundation	500.00	Secured
Oswestry Library	800.00 (in kind)	Secured
Homework Club Funds	200.00	Ongoing
STAR Housing	500.00	Applied
Oswestry LJC	1,500.00	Applied
Total	£3,500.00	
Request to LJC	£1,500.00	

6.5 **Shropshire Scouts – Preparation for World Scout Jamboree**

6.5.1 Shropshire Scouts have made a cluster application applying for the provision of workshops to prepare a select group of scouts from the local area. These workshops are to prepare the group for attending the 2015 world jamboree in Japan. Some of the funding needed for this will come from the Scouts themselves being required to raise funds for themselves.

6.5.2 Need and Demand – This is an opportunity for the Scouts to represent Shropshire at an International event. The opportunity for this group is also to gain experience and skills to use in their future.

6.5.3

Total Project Costs	£1,130.00	
Project Funding	£	Status
St Oswalds LJC	565.00	Applied
Gobowen LJC	282.50	Applied
Oswestry LJC	282.50	Applied
Total	£1,130.00	
Request to LJC	£282.50	

6.6 Oswestry Community Integration Event

6.6.1 Oswestry has a diverse culture with residents from many different counties. Amongst members of society there can be negative stigma due to a lack of understanding. Children's Centre's in Oswestry have been successful in providing events in Eastern Oswestry to educate residents through the schools in different cultures. This year it is a wish to expand the offer to the whole of Oswestry to learn more about the diverse cultural backgrounds in Oswestry. The intention is to improve understanding and promote cohesion within the community as it is felt there is a great current divide.

6.6.2 Need and Demand – Oswestry has a diverse cultural mix in the town. Some children and adults lack understanding of others culture and this can lead to tensions and divisions within community. It is important to educate people so that cohesion can be achieved and a greater sense of community as it is in 2014 onwards.

6.6.3

Total Project Costs	£500.00	
Project Funding	£	Status
LJC application	250.00	Applied
North Shropshire Bronze Level tasting	250.00	To be applied for
Total	500.00	
Request to LJC	£250.00	

6.7 Oswestry Otters Amateur Swimming Clup

6.7.1 Oswestry Otters have made a request to Oswestry LJC to assist with the cost of training coaches. They are looking to extend the offer to younger swimmers locally and improve the sustainability of the club by increasing the training of volunteers. Otters had a recent payment from Oswestry LJC to assist in the ability to transport their members to and from competition gala's.

- 6.7.2 Need and Demand – Oswestry LJC’s sports budget was devolved to the Oswestry Sports Society and so The Otters have been advised their application would need to be made to them.

6.7.3

Total Project Costs	£2150.00	
Project Funding	£2150.00	Status
Oswestry Round Table	475.00	Secured
Oswestry LJC	1675.00	Applied
Total	£2150.00	
Request to LJC	£1675.00	

6.8 **Happy Hour Summer Activities for young people**

- 6.8.1 The application comes from a group of partners wishing to target the needs of young people throughout the summer holidays. The groups are Shropshire Council Positive Activities Team, Oswestry Library, The Centre North West, Oswestry Youth Café and Community Support Officer. They would like to provide a daily activity through one of the venues open to them such as skate ramps, crafts, creative writing, space to play etc. This is specifically aimed to target antisocial behaviour as a direct result of ‘nothing to do’.
- 6.8.2 Need and demand – The younger people of Oswestry continually state they have little or nothing to do in Oswestry. This leads to them ‘hanging about’ the town and in some instances causing a disruption to other members of the community. Most activities offered to younger people do come with a charge and younger people say they are unable to pay. The activities looking to be offered through this partnership will be free to the young people attending.

6.8.3

Total Project Costs	£1,000	
Project Funding	£	Status
LJC	1,000	Applied
Total	1,000	
Request to LJC	£1,000	

6.9 **Oswestry Photographic Society – Equipment purchase**

6.9.1 Oswestry Photographic Society was formed in 1956. It meets on a regular basis to share knowledge and skills between members who range in age 18 to 80 and has a good balance of both men and women. They have strong connections with groups in other areas and compete with some of the groups successfully. They require an update of their equipment as the laptop no longer works and the projector needed for competition, demonstrations and visiting lecturers is failing and also does not provide adequate resolution for today's standards.

6.9.2 Need and demand – The group has a reasonable number of members attending on a regular basis. It is on a recruitment drive currently to enhance this membership and also is looking to make links with the local secondary school to gain younger members but also offer an additional skill learning opportunity to these younger members of society. In order for the group to continue this equipment is needed. They are putting forward funds from the group but these are not adequate to meet the total cost needed.

6.9.3

Total Project Costs	£2939.00	
Project Funding	£	Status
LJC cluster	1,939.00	Applied
Total	£2939.00	
Request to LJC	£400.00	

6.10 **Oswestry Community Alcohol Partnership -**

6.10.1 This request has been submitted by a Oswestry Community Alcohol Partnership to provide a fund for younger people in Oswestry to bid for funding in order to organise diversionary events or educational activities related to the reduction of underage alcohol consumption. The work will be done in conjunction with local education providers and supported by partners of the Oswestry CAP and volunteers. It is hoped that providing the younger people with the ability to bid will provide a sense of ownership to the issue and also provide additional skills beyond that currently offered by the educational establishments.

6.10.2 Need and demand – The group is aware that there is a problem with underage drinking in Oswestry. The group has provided many successful events in Oswestry to promote education on alcohol consumption. This is taking the learning from the previous work and sharing it with the younger people to hopefully provide events that they feel part of and that meet the educational need.

6.10.3

Total Project Costs	£6,000	
Project Funding	£	Status
Os CAP	3,000	Confirmed
Oswestry LJC	3,000	Applied
Total	£6,000	
Request to LJC	£3,000	

6.11 **Intrepid CiC - Formation**

6.11.1 This request has been submitted by Intrepid CiC. They are forming a CiC to work with 16 – 24 year old not in work. They will provide mentoring to this group to inspire them to find work. They will also assist the younger people to build their skills through work experience. Intrepid will look to create service arms, such as a gardening service so that some of the work experience can be done in house as well as through contact Intrepid make in local businesses. The aim will be to reduce the high number of unemployed youngsters in Oswestry.

6.11.2 Need and demand – The projects aimed at 16-24 year olds not in employment or education. Referring to the statistical information published in OS2020 this group is a higher proportion than in other areas of the county. Intrepid will be able to act as a co-ordinator and facilitator of services in Oswestry using their own services and that of the local partners they will look to work with.

6.11.3

Total Project Costs	£3,000	
Project Funding	£	Status
Oswestry LJC	3,000	Applied
Total	£3,000	
Request to LJC	£3,000	

6.12 **Oswestry Cricket Club – Redevelopment and improvement of kitchen area and facilities.**

6.12.1 This project has been submitted by Oswestry Cricket Club (OCC) as a community organisation registered under the industrial and provident societies act 1965. The cricket club offers the venue to community groups and charities on either a free or nominal charge basis. It has been inundated with requests to use the facility but providing food from their current kitchen facility is difficult. In order to improve and expand the offer giving the club improved sustainability and improving the towns offer the kitchen needs to be fit for purpose. The OCC uses local produce, suppliers and tradesmen supporting the local economy. It is

staffed by local members of the club and also provides part time employment to a number of younger club members with the emphasis on providing real work experience and skill building to ready them for the world of work. There are currently 36 young members on the rota of work, through this initiative 12 have already gone on to find full employment locally.

6.12.2 Need and demand – The project provides recreational and social activity to the community of Oswestry. It also has a good financially sustainable plan moving forward. With the improvements it should be able to enhance the offer it provides as a venue to the local community and add to the economic growth in Oswestry. The support it provides to younger people in preparing them for work is an additional enhancement to the community. The club continues to have a very full diary of bookings throughout the coming year.

6.12.3

Total Project Costs	£15,000	
Project Funding	£	Status
Oswestry Cricket Club	5,000	Confirmed
Oswestry LJC	10,000	Applied
Total	£15,000	
Request to LJC	£10,000	

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

8.1 For information related to the Oswestry LJC please contact:

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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 2011/12-2012/14, Appendix 5. Report to Cabinet 13th January 2011-07-04

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

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Gwilym Butler

Local Member

Councillor Keith Barrow

Councillor Martin Bennett

Councillor Peter Cherrington

Councillor Vince Hunt

Appendices

None