

2011/12 FINANCE REPORT, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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Summary

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

A total of £32,400 has been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for the year 2011/12.

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

However, at the time of the planning meeting held on 14th March, no applications had been received. Four applications have subsequently been submitted and are put forward for decision at this meeting.

Recommendation

- That the LJC considers and makes decisions on the four applications received.

Report

Background

1. The Shrewsbury LJC is responsible for the award and expenditure of a devolved budget. At the planning meeting held on 14th March 2011, Members agreed that they would wish to consider funding for Shrewsbury wide project proposals in accordance with the guidelines contained in the previous report.
2. The amount allocated to the Shrewsbury wide Local Joint Committee is calculated based on a 30% top-slice of the Shrewsbury neighbourhood LJC budgets, as agreed by Council on 9th December 2010, and totals £32,400.

Applications received

3. The Cornerstone Project – This project is led by Shrewsbury Baptist Church, and relates to the development of a new community drop-in centre on the site of Shrewsbury Baptist Church in the town centre - building of the centre has been funded by a local developer involved in the redevelopment of the adjoining site, and the Baptist Church. They now have a shell which needs fitting out, and for which they are fund-raising. They have consulted with local people and the 6th form college, and are aiming to provide a town centre community facility which can be used for toddler groups, young people's drop-in/homework centre, senior citizens drop-in, meetings, training, etc. They are keen to work with as many agencies as possible to provide a centre which meets community needs, and envisage its role evolving once it opens. It will also be the base for the newly forming Street Pastors project. They are approaching the LJC for a contribution towards the costs of IT equipment and networking to allow its use as an internet cafe, and for the installation of hearing loop, microphones, lighting, projector and screens. The building once complete will be able to accommodate 100 people on the ground floor and 200 people on the first floor. The applicants own another Church in Monkmoor, so are comfortable with their building in the town centre being available for much wider community use. They are also working with other local churches to develop ideas for further use of the building, and a volunteer base to help run it. The amount requested from the LJC is £15,000.
4. Skills for Change: Young People get active for a better environment – This project is led by an organisation called 'Bridges' which is based in Wellington. The project aims are to:
 - give 150 young people the skills to engage members of their community on an environmental issue
 - give these young people the skills to plan and carry out six projects which improve the environment
 - connect young people and organisations with community networks where they can make a long term differenceThe proposal is to run 36 workshops working with young people aged 11 to 20 commencing in May 2011, which will use examples of inspirational young people around the world who have taken action to improve their own environments to motivate learning and action. The workshops will encourage young people to choose an environmental issue and a local action which they can then develop, by learning basic project management, public engagement and conservation skills.

The application form suggests that 'Bridges' already has links with the Transition Towns Shrewsbury group, SCAT, a number of churches which have ecumenical green groups, and the Riversway Church in Harlescott. The LJC funding requested is for £1,820 to cover the costs of facilitation staff, and office costs, towards a total project cost of £3,590.
5. Shrewsbury Artists Open Studios event – This project is led by Shrewsbury Open Studios, who are seeking funding towards an Artists Open Studios event being held over two weekends during the Shrewsbury Summer Season. The aims are to encourage and support all interested artists to take part in the event, and to

provide participating artists the opportunity to show their work in their working studio, and discuss and demonstrate their working methods with the local community and visitors to the town. The application explains that although the Shrewsbury Open Studios event has been running for 10 years on a single weekend in July, the plan this year is to extend it to two weekends, and a Wednesday evening to offer a wider opportunity to visit. Approximately 40 local artists are known to be interested in taking part - many are members of the Visual Arts Network, DASH, and/or Made in Shropshire - as well as reaching a wider audience, the event is intended to promote the local economy through improved sales, commissions, etc. The funding requested from the LJC is £650 towards the costs of producing a brochure, printing of advertising posters, laminated signs/notices to direct visitors to studios, and rental of additional space at the English Bridge gallery.

6. Summer Holiday Youth Activities – This project is led by Shropshire Council Positive Activities Team. The aim of the project is to engage with as many young people as possible across Shrewsbury by providing ‘things to do and places to go’ for young people aged 10 to 16 who live in Shrewsbury and the surrounding rural areas, over the summer holiday period. The work would be additional to the core work that is undertaken each week in youth club settings across Shrewsbury and would take place in daytimes, evenings, weekdays or at weekends. Young people will be actively involved in the planning of the summer holiday programme – examples of activity suggested are: arts workshops, DJ/music projects, area-wide sports tournaments, trips, visits, fun days, team-building days and personal development training, with a view to developing relationships which lead to participation in more regular youth club activities. The funding requested from the LJC is £5,000 towards estimated total project costs of £7,000 – the in-kind contribution is costed as being for use of buildings, staffing, promotion, and access to the youth bus.

Summary of funding requests

7. The total funding requested is £22,470, summarised as follows:

	£
A. The Cornerstone Project – IT fitting out of town centre community centre	15,000.00
B. Skills for Change: Young People get active for a better environment	1,820.00
C. Shrewsbury Artists Open Studios event	650.00
D. Summer Holiday Youth activities	5,000
TOTAL	22,470.00
Total Funding Requests	22,470.00
Original Budget	32,400.00
Spend to Date	0.00
Balance Remaining	32,400.00

8. Future Funding

8.1 In view of the limited funding available, the LJC may wish to consider whether it wishes in future to prioritise and/or invite project proposals which address particular themes or known priorities in the LJC area.

8.2 Bids for future funding should be address to:

Gill Jones or Ken James at Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

Email: gill.jones@shropshire.gov.uk or
ken.james@shropshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01743 252344

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 th January 2011.

Locality Working Local Joint Committees. Report to Council 9 th December 2010. LJC application forms for the projects listed

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

None.

Risk Management Appraisal

In determining these recommendations the Council has considered reputational risk and the course of action minimises this risk.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Consideration has been given to the public opinion expressed at the previous Local Meeting.

Local Member

N/A

Appendices

None.
