



Committee and Date  
St Oswald and Llanymynech  
Local Joint Committee

4th October 2011

7.00pm

Item

12

Public

## **2011/12 ST OSWALD AND LLANYMYNECH LJC BUDGET REPORT AND FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

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### **1. Summary**

This report outlines the rationale for delegating 5% of the 2011/12 budget St Oswald and Llanymynech Local Joint Committee (LJC) has received to Oswestry and District Sports Council (ODSC) to enable ODSC to run an sports funding programme on behalf of the LJC, with the objectives of promoting the concept of the 'Big Society' and simplifying the process of approving funding for sports themed projects that cover both Oswestry town and its surrounding hinterland – an area that is now covered by 4 LJC's and referred to as the Oswestry LJC cluster.

### **2. Recommendations**

That the St Oswald and Llanymynech LJC agrees delegation of £725 (5% of the 2011/2012 budget) to Oswestry and District Sports Council who will utilise it to run a small grants programme supporting sport development on behalf of the LJC

### **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

5.1 The LJs that make up the Oswestry cluster are LJC 1 – Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn, LJC 6 – Oswestry, LJC 7 – Five Perry Parishes and LJC 8 – St Oswalds and Llanymynech.

5.2 Oswestry & District Sports Council is a voluntary organisation, comprising representative members from local sports clubs. The committee members are volunteers, most of whom are active committee members in their own clubs. The Sports Council aims to support sport and physical recreation in the Oswestry area. Since the demise of Oswestry Borough Council, the area of benefit has been altered to Oswestry and the area of Shropshire within a 10 mile radius of Oswestry (which therefore now includes Ellesmere and Baschurch). The small grants programme is a vital part of its role but it also organise the presentation of annual sports awards for the Oswestry area, which has become a popular evening attracting over 100 people. They run an email distribution network to inform local sports club representatives of relevant events and opportunities, and arrange Forum Evenings on topics which are of interest to a wide range of sports groups.

5.3 The Objects of the ODSC as defined by its Constitution are:

*'the fostering, promotion, maintenance, improvement, development, extension, appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of Sport and Physical Recreation, and the facilitation and improvement of their accessibility among people in the area of benefit'*

5.4 The Powers are defined as:

- *To act as a co-ordinating body for organisations and individuals whether amateur or professional, in relation to activities which promote, or are in pursuance of The Objects of the Sports Council within the Area of Benefit.*
- *To provide the means of liaison between the organisations and individuals and Local Authorities, Sports Lottery and other funding bodies, and advisory bodies working within the area of Sports and Physical Recreation.*
- *To present, or assist in presenting, sporting competition, displays, exhibitions, festivals and other sporting events.*
- *To assist individuals and organisation to develop, improve, and pursue the goal of achieving personal and corporate excellence in some branch or branches of sport, for example by awarding small grants.*
- *To bring, or assist in bringing, to the attention of the inhabitants of the Area of Benefit, the achievements of individuals and organisations so as to encourage the pursuit of individual and corporate excellence in sport.*
- *To establish, encourage and further the work of bodies which will promote or assist in promoting The Objects of the Sports Council.*

5.5 ODSC organises its grants through a grants committee which meets a minimum of three times a year to discuss the applications it has received. Details of projects recently approved are detailed Appendix A.

5.6 Any sports based LJC funding applications from the area received by the local Community Action Officer would be referred to ODSC, and the LJC and the local Community Action Officer would be able to comment on the applications received as part of the assessment process.

5.7 ODSC would assess the applications received, and make a decision on whether to support it and what amount of funding the project should receive.

5.8 A report on the funding decisions made would be provided to the LJC at each of its meetings.

**The benefits of the recommendation include:**

Delegation of funding will promote the concept of the Big Society demonstrating a clear confidence in the ability of the voluntary and community sector to carry out functions on behalf of Shropshire Council.

If all the LJCs in the Oswestry cluster, namely LJC 1 – Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn, LJC 6 – Oswestry, LJC 7 – Five Perry Parishes and LJC 8 – St Oswalds and Llanymynech, agree to delegate 5% of the budget for 2011/2012 to ODSC it will provide a single point of reference for the community groups seeking funding for a sports project benefitting the whole cluster area.

By pooling the funding for the Oswestry area into a single pot, the element of strategic thinking which has potentially been lost by dividing the funding is re-enabled, so that organisations with a wider geographical remit may more easily seek funding to continue their work in the area.

Applications made to ODSC would be subject to “peer review” by people who have an understanding of sports provision and development in the Oswestry area, which will ensure that applications are of a high quality and add value to the area’s sporting offer.

With the reduction in the number of LJC meetings each year, the number of times funding decisions are made also reduces. ODSC will be able to make funding decisions more regularly increasing the flexibility for organisations who may require a prompt response.

**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<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Locality Working Local Joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

St Oswald and Llanymynech LJC funding report 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Cllr Gwilym Butler – Flourishing Shropshire Communities

**Local Member**

Shropshire Councillors – Arthur Walpole, Joyce Barrow, David G Lloyd and Trevor Davies

**Appendices**

A. ODSC – Recent grant recipients