

2012/13 FINANCE REPORT, DELEGATED FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Responsible Officer Corrie Davies

Email: corrie.davies@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01691 677306

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report considers the devolved funding allocated to the Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1 April 2012 up until 31 March 2013.
- 1.2 A total of £19,032 has been devolved to the committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for 2012/13.
- 1.3 Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations.
- 1.4 Three applications have been received for this reporting period. These were considered at the planning meeting held on 11th October 2012. The recommendations from the planning meeting feature in this report, and are put forward to the LJC committee for agreement.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report under delegated authority.
- 2.2 That the LJC allocates any underspend in its 2012/13 budget towards the agreed priorities.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Applications for funding were considered at the 11th October 2012 planning meeting and recommendations totalling £1,124 are now put forward to the

Five Perry Parishes LJC for agreement, with a recommendation to be put forward on application D1 at the public meeting. Application D2 has been moved under delegated authority due to the timescales of the project. The recommendations are as follows:

D1	Whittington Music Festival - School Workshops (new application)	TBC at public meeting
D2	Whittington Community Centre (delegated authority)	£800
D3	Oswestry Sibling Group	£324

TOTAL SPEND

£

	2012/13 budget	£ 14,000
	2011/12 budget carried	£ 3,992
	Delegation of arts funding to Oswestry & District Arts Association	£1,040
	Spend to Date 2012/13	£11,399
	Current Balance after Round 1	£7,633
	Round Two Request Total	£2,424
	Total of recommendations 08/11/2012	£1,124
		TBC at public meeting following decision on D1

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 1st 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 Five Perry Parishes wards have membership from Shropshire Council (2 members) and parish councils (5 members) all with equal voting rights.
- 5.3 The Five Perry Parishes LJC is responsible for the award and expenditure of the devolved budget. The amount available to the LJC in 2011/12 was reduced as a result of Shropshire Council budget decisions, and a review of locality working in Shropshire. The amount was 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. This is the final year that any carry forward of under spend will be permitted.
- 5.4 Following full council on 23rd June 2011 it is recommended that Community Action Officers are given delegated authority to determine urgent and time sensitive matters in consultation and agreement with the Local Joint Committee Chair and/or Vice Chair. Details in this instance can be circulated with other members of the panel to obtain a consensus. This will obviate the need for additional meetings and allow for applications to be agreed between meetings if they are urgent.
- 5.5 The total amount available to Five Perry Parishes LJC is calculated as follows:

Total LJC electorate as at August 2010:	6,127
Budget based on this electorate	£14,000
Plus apportioned allocation of community arts budget	£1,040
Plus carry forward of under spend	£3,992
TOTAL budget for 2012/13	£ 19,032

- 5.6 The value of recommended projects put forward in this current round total £1,124, with a decision outstanding and recommendation to be put forward on application D1. The current balance being carried forward without decision on D1 is **£6,506 (To be confirmed at public meeting)**.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1 A summary of applications received has been compiled and included below.
- 6.2 Whittington Music Festival (New Application) - School Workshops
- 6.2.1 In May 2013 the LJC area will be welcoming ten world-class musicians who will be offering workshops in local schools and to the local community generally. Both Whittington C of E Primary School and The Corbet School, Baschurch, have expressed enthusiasm in holding such workshops, provided they can be externally funded. Corbet have yet to decide on the target Year group, but Whittington's will be Year 5. In both cases, the workshop will include illustrations from the classical repertoire, discussion of how it relates to more familiar musical genres with examples of 'fusion' styles, anecdotes

relating to the music and the performing musicians, and – appropriate to each school – making connections with the curriculum. The two schools – along with other local schools - will be invited to provide budding musicians to take part in rehearsals and a Festival performance: an event we hope will attract the attention of regional TV. The children involved will find their confidence enlarged and experience a sense of achievement they will never forget. The philosophy throughout this programme is to demonstrate the potential of music-making (and of beautiful music in particular) to work for a co-operative spirit, and to combat the self-centredness characteristic of so much else in youth culture. At the other end of the age spectrum, the strong local U3A – which draws an estimated 30% of its membership from our LJC – is equally keen to host some of these visitors and to have them give an illustrated lecture to their Tuesday meeting. The meeting generally attracts an attendance of 130 people aged 50+. U3A will not be able to meet the cost. It is worth observing that during the ten days of their residence, the ensemble will be contributing freely to our community experience by allowing open access to their concert rehearsal sessions and by busking in local authorized public places. The impact of this approach can be assessed in the 3-minute video (involving some of the musicians concerned) at [youtube.com/watch?v=deDTYycuqlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deDTYycuqlg). **Total project costs £1650 with LJC request at: £1,300**

6.2.2 Need and Demand -The workshops for which the group are applying will be undeniably in the context of the Whittington Chamber Music Festival. They are nonetheless genuine stand-alone community events which are taking advantage of the resources a local arts festival happens to make available. If community funding is not granted for them, the community workshops will be unable to go ahead. The group hope also these exciting opportunities for engaging both the young and older of the area provide the LJC with a legitimate way of supporting what has to be one of the most ambitious and potentially long-lasting contributions to community life in this comparatively side-lined area of our county. It is unusual to have people of international calibre making themselves available to our local villages for ten full days, and being open to what we want of them. It will be fun, rewarding and inevitably attract positive media attention.

6.3 Whittington Community Centre

6.3.1 The purpose of the project is to restore the rear wall of the village community centre to a weatherproof condition by making good the pointing defects (illustrated in attached photographs). Having already completed the internal redecoration and double glazing of the windows, the project will ensure that the community centre continues to be used on a daily basis by the community groups including:- Pr-school, surestart, brownie pack, ballet classes, WI and for events run by individuals in the community (e.g. children's parties, quizzes, craft fairs, amateur dramatics and young farmers). **Total Project Costs: £848 and LJC request £800.**

6.3.2 Need and demand –The building is surveyed by members of the management committee in conjunction with a professional builder. This survey showed up significant defects in the pointing of the rear wall, allowing rainwater to penetrate and reduce the integrity of the structure. Enclosed photographs within the application show examples of the defects. The management committee has already improved much of the fabric of the building by internal and external redecoration, double glazing of the windows and new curtains.

This work to the rear wall will further improve the long term life of the building to provide community facilities for years to come. **The LJC confirmed under delegated authority at their planning meeting to approve and move this application due to the timescales of work.**

6.4 Oswestry Sibling Group

- 6.4.1 The Oswestry Sibling Group is a monthly support group for 8-12 year old children who have a brother or sister with a disability or additional needs. The group was set up to provide a fun and safe setting for siblings of disabled children to meet with other children that live in similar situations, with an aim to enhance their lives by providing them with information, support and fun opportunities. Siblings have specific needs that require attention at different stages of their lives, including relief of isolation, information, and strategies for coping with the situations they find themselves in. The age range of the group was decided through discussions with the national charity 'Sibs' as only 1 group would be set up in different areas of the county. The group needed to ensure that they set up each group for an age range that would be most beneficial. At about age 7 or 8 children start to notice and question the differences between their own families and those of their friends. This is an ideal time to get them attending a sibling group. To ensure the group was manageable and the age range not too large it was decided to go up to age 12 when children will have started secondary school. Each monthly meeting is different from the last and the sessions range from incorporating discussions relating to being a sibling to just having fun doing various activities together as a group.

Sessions that have been done for example include:

- Creative, Arts & Crafts – discussing stressful situations and making 'stress balls'; looking at their individual support networks and designing a useful reminder.
- Learning – introductory session on Makaton signs & symbols; cooking; quiz.
- Activities & Trips – tenpin bowling; visit to a small holding; outdoor activities that include climbing, archery, zip wire and go-karting.

Some of the sessions provide the siblings the opportunity to take part in something they have never done before and to share their experiences with other children who have similar life situations. The creative sessions have shown the siblings that they are not alone in issues that they are concerned about and how they feel whilst the activities and trips have helped improve their self- esteem and confidence.

Siblings of disabled children are first and foremost children, and they want to be able to live ordinary lives and have positive relationships with their disabled brothers and sisters and with their parents. However, some of the challenges they face on a daily basis make this difficult. For example, they often experience restrictions on family and social activities and on their own behaviour at home, unfairness about their brother or sister getting more attention and resources than them, and having to do caring tasks or cope with environmental issues such as persistent noise. Whilst it is recognised that their parents and disabled brothers and sisters need a break, it is rarely acknowledged that siblings need a break too. "Most young siblings experience lack of parental attention, isolation, ignorance about disability, difficulty coping with their experiences, and the financial impact of disability on the family.

Many studies on siblings of children with a chronic illness indicate that siblings are at risk for negative psychological effects." *Rossiter, L and Sharpe, D (2002), Siblings of children with a chronic illness: A meta analysis, Journal of Pediatric Psychology.*

The following has been noted by the charity 'Sibs' as how a Sibling Group can make a difference:

1. Improved wellbeing
2. Improved relationships with their disabled brothers and sisters
3. Improved behaviour at home and school
4. Increased communication between parents and siblings about worries and about disability
5. Improved concentration and performance at school
6. Using skills to help themselves and other siblings at difficult times
7. Increased attendance at mainstream youth groups
8. Being able to speak up about bullying
9. Increased understanding about disability
10. Increased social time with peer group
11. Having a voice about sibling issues locally and nationally

For further information regarding the 'Sibs' national charity please go to: www.sibs.org.uk

Total project costs £1674 and LJC request at £834

- 6.4.2 Need and demand –There are no firm figures regarding the amount of disabled children in Shropshire and therefore no information regarding how many siblings of disabled children there are. However, taking into account children who have a statement of special educational needs and those being provided with services it is estimated that there are between 1500-2000 disabled children or children with additional needs living in Shropshire. According to the National Statistics Online (NSO) the average number of children per family is 1.8 which would give approximate figures for siblings of disabled children in Shropshire as 1200-1600. The three Shropshire Sibling Groups that are currently running have worked with and helped 38 individual children aged 8-12 years since the first group started in June 2010. The Oswestry Sibling Group is currently supporting 8 children and will continue to gain referrals to work with up to 15 children at any one time.

Peter Burke, in *Siblings of Disabled Children*, 2004, asserts that "It is evident that attending a siblings group is of benefit to the siblings involved because siblings are, perhaps for the first time, in a group where they are not different from others...siblings gain a voice by attending a group, which enables them to be honest about themselves, to express their fears, anxieties and wishes for the future with other young people who understand."

Currently for siblings of disabled children in the Oswestry area the 'Oswestry Sibling Group' is the only support group that is specifically for sibling children and open to referrals for any child aged 8-12 years who have a disabled brother or sister. This group fills a gap for those siblings unable to access the Hope House group or who find the British Red Cross Young Carers too generic or not specific to their needs.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The applications are recommended, not approved or deferred following consideration 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 Future Funding

- 8.1 In view of the reduced funding available, the LJC will consider future applications and project proposals with the following themes in mind: Activities for young people and older people, transport and accessibility, building capacity and supporting sustainable development, improving the local environment- built and natural, celebrating local heritage, arts and culture and sports development.
- 8.2 The next LJC meeting is scheduled to take place at 7.00 pm on the 21st of March 2013 at Hordley Village Hall. Application closing date will be **15th February 2013**.
- 8.3 For information about applying for an LJC grant and to receive an application form, contact Corrie Davies, Community Action Officer as follows:

Corrie Davies
Community Action Officer
Northern Area Community Action Team
Shropshire Council
Castle View
Oswestry
SY11 1JR
Phone: 01691 677306
Mobile: 07582002026
corrie.davies@shropshire.gov.uk

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 13 th January 2011 Locality Working Local joint Committees. Report to Cabinet 9 th December 2010 Amendment to LJC Constitution. Report to Council 23 rd June 2011 LJC Applications forms for projects listed
--

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
--

Councillor Gwilym Butler - Flourishing Shropshire Communities

Local Member

Councillors Stephen Charmley and Councillor Aggie Caesar-Homden

Appendices

None
