



Committee and date
Severn Loop
Local Joint Committee

10th March 2010

7.00 pm

Item No

7

Public

BUDGET REPORT

Responsible Officer Andy Goldsmith

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Summary

The Severn Loop Local Joint Committee has a budget of £37,000. This may be used to fund applications for small community schemes. £31,330 remains unallocated.

This report details the new applications which have been received and it is requested that the Committee consider the applications and recommendations in this report.

Recommendations

- A. **That the Local Joint Committee determine the applications for grant funding set out in this report.**

Report

1. Six grant applications have been submitted for the second round of budget allocations and an assessment of the applications are set out below.

Name of Project:	Darwin Community Centre Security Upgrade
Applicant:	Darwin Community Centre. Registered Charity No. 510370
Project Outline: The overall aim is to improve the security of the Darwin Community Centre by installing an alarm system, window and fire door locks and heat sensitive automatic lighting to deter break-ins and ensure that they are reported quickly.	
Project Costs:	£1450
Amount Requested:	£1450
Lead Officers Comments: Annual accounts and details of bookings have been submitted in support of this project and they demonstrate that the facility has a regular programme of community bookings and a sustainable budget. The Police are supportive of the application. This application meets the funding principles of the Local Joint Committees and it is recommended that this application is approved.	

Name of Project:	Jigsaw Sound Uniform Project
Applicant:	Jigsaw Sound Community Choir
Project Outline: The aim of the project is to purchase items of uniform for choir performances.	
Project Costs:	£3000
Amount Requested:	£1500
Lead Officers Comments: <p>This Choir has only been running since late 2006 but has been very successful in attracting a membership of 73 people aged from 22 to 83 years.</p> <p>The Choir puts on a number of performances each year and any money raised from concert donations is given to charity. In the first two years of the choir £3000 was raised for the Shrewsbury Ark and more recently a concert in aid of Hope House Hospice raised £1000 for that organisation.</p> <p>A uniform is considered essential when giving concerts and the choir purchase their own uniform at a cost of around £100. This request is for funding for 68 black woollen wraps to complete the ladies choir uniform.</p> <p>The Choir is a community choir as has been very successful in gaining a wide membership in a short period. It is recommended that this application is approved.</p>	

Name of Project:	Equipment for Belle Vue Youth Club
Organisation:	Belle Vue Youth Club. Registered Charity No 1118126
Project Outline: The overall aim of the project is to purchase equipment to aid the running of the club and offer alternative activities for the young people attending.	
Project Costs	£2361.80
Amount Requested	£2361.80
Lead Officers Comments <p>Belle Vue Youth Club is not located within the Severn Loop LJC but does provide facilities for young people from the area.</p> <p>The Youth Club has been running for a ten years and is well used by young people from Belle Vue, Reabrook and the wider area. The club is open five days a week for 39 weeks of the year and is staffed by volunteers and supported by Youth Workers.</p> <p>After ten years of heavy use the equipment and cupboards in the centre are starting to look tatty and the application is for funding to improve the social area of the club which it is hoped will make it more attractive to new users and to improve the storage available to partnership groups that deliver valuable initiatives for young people from this venue.</p> <p>The club provides a good facility and service for young people and it is recommended that the Severn Loop LJC contribute 50% (£1181) of the funding requested and that the application is forwarded to other Shrewsbury LJC's for consideration.</p>	

Name of Project:	The Shrewsbury Ark
Applicant:	The Shrewsbury Ark Registered Charity No 501881
Project Outline: The overall aim of the project is to purchase several items of equipment to ease and improve the running of the centre. These items include a washing machine, dryer, industrial cooker, fridge and freezer. Three quotes will be submitted prior to the public meeting.	
Project Costs:	£9327
Amount Requested:	£9327
Lead Officers Comments: The application seeks capital funding to assist with the refitting of the kitchen and utility room to commercial grade standard. The facility does provide facilities for around 35 to 40 homeless and vulnerable people per day including meals, showers and laundry facilities. It is understood that the Ark has been successful in securing funding for a major refurbishment of the physical fabric of the kitchen area and this equipment will enable the Ark to replace worn out domestic grade appliances and to provide facilities that meet food hygiene and health and safety requirements. Whilst it is recognised that the facility provides for clients from an area much wider than the Severn Loop LJC, the facility is located within this LJC area and the services it provides does have a positive impact within the area. This facility is highly regarded as an important safety net for some of the most disadvantaged members of the community and the Police consider it plays a significant role in removing begging off the streets of Shrewsbury. Having considered the application it is recommended that the LJC make a contribution of £5600 towards the project and fund some of the equipment required that will make the largest individual improvement namely; Combination Oven Refrigerator Freezer Microwave oven Washing Machine Dryer.	

Name of Project:	Coton Hill Parade Improvements
Applicant:	Individual resident request to Shropshire Council for the Commission of Service
Project Outline: The overall outcome of the project is to replace benches and bins along Coton Hill parade with a style that is considered more appropriate for one of the main gateways to town and a conservation area. It is also proposed to repaint and carry out minor repairs to the railings along the river and to create an information board to detail the historical interest of this parade.	

Project Costs:	£4600
Amount Requested:	£4600
Lead Officers Comments: <p>The Parade is a historic setting offering impressive views over the river Severn and the County Ground. The Parade is located within the Coton Hill Conservation Area and along one of the major gateways into Shrewsbury for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.</p> <p>The Council has fixed benches and bins on the Parade to provide for people to sit and enjoy the views. This street furniture has been described as 'municipal' and the basis of this application is to fund Shropshire Council to replace with furniture more appropriate in a conservation area and to purchase paint for the railings. The painting can be undertaken by people on the Community Payback Scheme and bins will be emptied by Shropshire Council.</p> <p>This application fits within the financial rules of the LJC's. The applicant does not however demonstrate widespread community support and it is recommended that Committee seek the views of residents at the meeting before determining whether to fund this proposal.</p>	

Name of Project:	Listen to the Band
Applicant:	Commission of Service
Project Outline: <p>The overall outcome of the project is to test the feasibility of holding concerts on the bandstand in the Quarry. The money is sought to waive charges of hiring the bandstand and to attract local bands to perform.</p>	
Project Costs:	£270
Amount Requested:	£270
Lead Officers Comments: <p>The bandstand is owned by Shrewsbury Town Council who makes a small charge for its use to cover additional staff requirements. The Town Council is keen to encourage increased use of the bandstand and has been exploring opportunities to do so, but to date has not proposed to waive the fee.</p> <p>It is considered inappropriate for Shropshire Council, through the LJC, to pay Shrewsbury Town Council for hire costs of the bandstand when the objective of encouraging its use is shared by both organisations.</p> <p>Officers do have concern that the funds requested will be insufficient to meet the project objectives however as a small pilot project with good community support it is recommended that the application is approved, but conditioned that the funding cannot be used for the bandstand hire fee. Further it is recommended that this LJC request Shrewsbury Town Council waive the fee in support of this application.</p>	

Name of Project:	Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest – May Festival
Applicant:	Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest. Registered Charity No 1120177
Project Outline:	The overall outcome of the project is to support the running of the annual Bookfest and offer the opportunity for young people in the town access to books and authors to promote an interest in books.
Project Costs:	£5330
Amount Requested:	£2525
Lead Officers Comments:	<p>Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest is a charity that seeks to develop a love of books through a series of events run across the local community each year. The project for which funding is sought is the May Literary Festival. This is a children's festival that takes place in community centres, Libraries and Theatres across Shrewsbury.</p> <p>The Bookfest is a scheme provided for children from across the town and district area. Children from the Severn Loop LJC would be able to participate but the scheme is not specifically targeted to the community represented by the Severn Loop LJC. This application whilst clearly being community led is not an application made by the community within the LJC area. Activities are planned within the LJC area including a book swap in the grounds of St Alkmunds Church, and Artwork at the Gateway.</p> <p>Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest has been running for 11 years and in 2009 won the Queens Award for Voluntary Service to the Community.</p> <p>As a community initiative across Shrewsbury it was considered that this application would be more appropriate if made to the Central Area Partnership, however these partnership funds are now fully committed. As a well respected community initiative that does target young people one of the LJC priorities on balance it is recommended that the Severn Loop LJC support the application with a contribution of £500, and forward the application to other four LJCs within the Shrewsbury area for their consideration.</p>

Current Budget Position

At the meeting on 24 September 2009, it was agreed that a sum of £500 be committed to fund a youth service consultation and questionnaire. At the meeting on 6th January £5,170 of grant funding was approved. £31,330 of the budget remains unallocated.

Bids for future funding are welcomed and should be addressed to:

Ruth Mansfield, Community Regeneration Officer, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 5ND.

Email: ruth.mansfield@shropshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01743 252329

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Application forms, circulated to committee members.

Human Rights Act Appraisal

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

Environmental Appraisal

Not applicable

Risk Management Appraisal

Controls over the management and audit of grants meet the requirements for risk control.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

These applications have been submitted by members of the local community.

Cabinet Member

Gwilym Butler

Local Members

Anne Chebsey, Maxwell Winchester, Mansel Williams

Town Council Members

Andrew Wagner, Alan Townsend.

Appendices

None.