

DECISION REPORT – GRANT APPLICATIONS

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Summary

This report considers applications for grant funding submitted to the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee (LJC) for 2011/12.

A total of £2573.17 remained in the budget from 2010/11 and a further £14,737 has been devolved to the committee for the current 2011/12 year to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC. So far no grants have been awarded. At the present time, therefore, available funds stand at £17,310

The applications now under consideration are set out in the report, with details attached.

Recommendations

It is recommended to the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee that the following decisions are made on the submitted applications:

- Darwin Community Centre, Frankwell - approval of £939 to improve disabled access and toilets.
- Summer Gardens residents association, Belle Vue - approval of £675 to purchase outdoor play equipment for community play area.

TOTAL for approval £1,614 (will leave £15,696.17)

Background

1. From 1 April 2009 Shropshire Council created 28 Local Joint Committees to operate across the whole of Shropshire. These LJC's are legally constituted decision making committees of Shropshire Council.

2. The LJC for the Severn Loop has membership from Shropshire Council (3 members) and Shrewsbury Town Council (2 members) all with equal voting rights. Currently, 1 councillor represents the wards on both councils. In these circumstances the Councillor representing Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council has two votes all other members of the Committee have one vote.
3. One of the main responsibilities of the LJC is to determine expenditure of the devolved budget. A budget of £14737 has been made available to the LJC for the current financial year. £2573.17 remained unallocated from the previous year's budget and has been carried forward, giving total available funds for 2011/12 of £17,310.17. No grants have been awarded this year. Expenditure against this budget is agreed by the Committee after consideration of decision reports with decisions determined by a simple majority.

Purposes of the funding

4. 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 that are attached to this report. Applications must demonstrate compliance with the following criteria:
 - Expenditure must be consistent with achieving the aims, objectives and vision set out in Shropshire's Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council's Corporate Plans and local Neighbourhood or Parish Plans.
 - Expenditure must be for activity within the geographical area of the Local Joint Committee.
 - Expenditure must benefit the wider community and should not be used to fund a group which restricts membership based on views, beliefs etc. For example, it would not be appropriate to make a contribution to a religious group but a contribution to say, improvements to a church hall which is open for bookings from the wider community would be acceptable.
 - The budget must not be spent on mainstream council activities, but can be used to enhance mainstream activities.
 - The budget must not be a displacement of existing council funding. For example, a service cannot be reinstated from the local budget if the council has cut funding for it in the previous 3 years.
 - The budget should not be used to meet ongoing staffing costs of an organisation.

Decision-making procedure

5. The LJC elected Members will decide on applications for funding and their decisions will be taken in public, following the process below:

- a written report by the Lead Officer, setting out the details of applications received and recommending a course of action;
- a brief verbal introduction to the applications, by the Lead Officer, at the meeting;
- questions by the elected Members of the officers and/or the applicants (if present);
- elected Members take the decision.

A slightly different process will need to be taken if there are fewer than three elected Members present, as that is the number required to form a quorum.

Applications under consideration

Applicant	Purpose of grant	Amount requested from BCR LJC	Comment
1. Darwin Community Centre. Porthill	Improvement to disabled access and toilets	£939	The Darwin Community Centre wishes to improve its usage and become more self sufficient. It is used as a polling Station and by several local groups. To make it more attractive it wishes to improve its disabled access and toilets to attract more groups. Suggest approval.
2. Summer Gardens Residents Association Belle Vue	Purchase outdoor play equipment for communal Play area.	£675	This is a recently formed residents association of 23 properties which include a large number of young families. They have a community space which is maintained by their Resident Social Landlord. There is no suitable play area for under ten year olds in the area and the residents association wish to develop their community space for residents and visitors. They will supervise and maintain the equipment. Suggest approval.

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

1. Locality Working – Local Joint Committees Supplementary Report – Implementation Executive 19 March 2009.

Human Rights Act Appraisal

At this stage the recommendations are unlikely to result in any implications for the Human Rights Act.

Environmental Appraisal

Risk Management Appraisal

The Council needs to address the risk of legal challenge to decisions through procedural or other errors. This has been carefully assessed. There are no risks specifically relating to the applications.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Cabinet Member

Gwilym Butler

Local Members

Shropshire Council Anne Chebsey, Mansel Williams, Andrew Bannerman
Shrewsbury Town Council Alan Townsend, Andrew Wagner

Appendices

None.