



**Committee and Date**  
The Severn Loop Local Joint  
Committee

12<sup>th</sup> October 2011

7pm

**Item**

**10**

Public

## **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 one grant of £939 has been awarded. At the present time available funds stand at £16,371

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:

1. Shrewsbury Town Centre Residents Association (STCRA):- approval of £1900 to support a commission to develop a series of 12 professionally produced videos which will be embedded in the new tourist map of Shrewsbury that can be accessed using QR code technology.
2. The Hive Music and Media Centre (HMM Arts Ltd):- consideration of part funding of £4930 with the Shrewsbury Wide LJC of five programmes; Live at the Hive, Open Mic Nights, International Women's Day, May Festival-Hive Street Party and Music Time.

### **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. One grant has been awarded this year for £939 leaving £16,371. 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 Community Action Officer, setting out the details of applications received and recommending a course of action;
  - a brief verbal introduction to the applications, by the Community Action 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 Severn Loop LJC	Comment
1. Shrewsbury Town Centre Residents Association	To support a commission to develop a series of 12 professionally produced videos which will be embedded in the new tourist map of Shrewsbury that can be accessed using QR code technology.	£1900	Destination Shrewsbury has recently commissioned a new illustrated tourist map of Shrewsbury. As well as being produced as a printed map, there will also be an online version which will sit on the Shropshire Council website. This online version provides great potential to harness the power of new technology to enhance the visitor experience, and part of the main commission includes production of a series of 12 professionally produced videos which will be embedded in the map. By using the latest QR code technology visitors will be able to use their smart phones to read the QR codes placed at key points around the town to play the videos when they are out and about.
2. The Hive Music and Media Centre	Five programmes Live at the Hive Open Mic Nights International Women's Day May Festival-Hive Street Party Music Time	£4930 to be shared with the Town Wide LJC	All of the five projects are very popular, however they don't break-even and they require support to ensure the programmes can continue without increasing prices; an action that could

			potentially isolate members of the local community. There is a clear demand for all of the programmes and even though some of the strands have been run before the Hive is hoping to embark on a new programme of activities and new approaches. A key part of the programmes will be to create more opportunities for volunteering to enable people to get experience of working in the performing arts.
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**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**