



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
Whitchurch and Prees Local Joint Committee	9
13 th October 2011	
7.00pm	Public

2011/12 WHITCHURCH & PREES LJC BUDGET REPORT AND FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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1. Summary

This report considers the devolved funding allocated to Whitchurch and Prees Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1st April 2011 up until 31st March 2012.

A total of £28,378 has been devolved to this Committee to fund projects in the local community served by the LJC for the 2011/12 financial year.

Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree recommendations. Six applications have been received for this reporting period and these applications have been considered at the planning meeting held on Wednesday 28th September. The recommendations from the planning meeting feature in this report at Appendix A and are put forward to the LJC to be held on 13th October 2011.

This report also concerns the granting of delegated authority to the Community Action Officer to deal with urgent and time sensitive matters, in particular those decisions relating to the granting of funds.

2. Recommendations

- That the LJC considers the applications received and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended in this report.
- It is recommended that Community Action Officers are given delegated authority, in consultation with the Local Joint Committee Chair (or Vice-Chair in their absence), to determine urgent and time sensitive matters and that the Local Joint Committee Constitution be amended with immediate effect.

- That Whitchurch & Prees LJC recommends the payment of £800.00 towards a total project cost of £10,000.00 to complete resurfacing work of an unadopted road in Prees. The matter was raised by Prees Parish Council Chair at a Local Joint Committee held in Fauls Green Village Hall on 9th February 2011.
- That Whitchurch & Prees LJC do not fund LJC Application Reference G – Electric supply to lights and a light for the footpath joining Alkington Road and Wheatsheaf Drive, Whitchurch, submitted by Whitchurch Town Council.

REPORT

3. Background

Whitchurch & Prees LJC is responsible for the award and expenditure of a devolved budget. The amount available to the LJC in 2011/12 has reduced as a result of Shropshire Council budget decisions and a review of locality working in Shropshire. This amount, however, has been supplemented by the transfer of funding previously available for community arts projects into the LJC budgets and some under spend carried forward from 2010/11. This is the final year that any carry forward of under spend will be permitted.

Delegated Authority to Community Action Officer

The constitutional arrangements for all Local Joint Committees provides for decisions to be taken by the Committee as a whole and at present does not provide for decisions to be taken outside this forum. Unfortunately, this makes no allowance for matters which occur from time to time which are either urgent or time sensitive, particularly those decisions relating to the granting of money.

The recent reduction in the number of Local Joint Committees held in each area from 4 to 2 or 3 meetings per year has required a number of Local Joint Committees to call special meetings to consider matters of this type.

If the Community Action Officer was to be given delegated authority to determine such urgent and time sensitive matters in consultation with the Local Joint Committee Chair (or Vice-Chair in their absence), this would obviate the need for additional meetings.

Request to Resurface an Unadopted Road in Prees

At the Whitchurch & Prees LJC meeting on 9th February 2011, held in Fauls Green Village Hall, it was requested by Prees Parish Council Chair that the LJC look at the problem of a dilapidated road surface on land around the war memorial and the lane leading up to the primary school at Prees. This road is not an adopted highway and, as such, does not fall under the remit of Shropshire Council as maintainable at public expense, but Highways Department, Shropshire Council have offered £4,000 from the Divisional Highway Budget to be provided towards a total cost of £10,000 for the resurfacing of the road. A local partnership of Prees Parish Council, Prees Primary School Governing body, Prees S. Chad PCC and neighbouring properties have

raised £3,200 leaving a shortfall of £2,800. £2,000 has been requested from a further source and it is recommended that Whitchurch & Prees LJC provide the sum of £800 to secure the total project cost of £10,000 to resurface the road.

Deferred LJC Application (G)

At the Whitchurch & Prees LJC meeting on 9th June, Whitchurch Town Council submitted an application to fund the installation of one street light and electricity for a footpath joining Alkington Road and Wheatsheaf Drive – the decision on this application was deferred to this LJC meeting pending further information. Further information has been received from Street Lighting Team Leader, Shropshire Council, stating that, to meet British Standards, the total cost of the project would be £6,500.

4. Finance

The total amount available to Whitchurch & Prees LJC is calculated as follows:

Total LJC electorate as at August 2010:	14,087
Budget based on electorate	£23,500
Plus apportioned allocation of community arts budget	£1,968
Plus carry forward for under spend	£2,910
TOTAL budget for 2011/12	£28,378

Ten projects applied for funding from the Whitchurch Local Joint Committee on 9th June 2011, project G – Whitchurch Town Council – footpath lights, was deferred and nine projects received funding worth £11,446.

Total budget for 2011/12	£28,378
Total funding allocated to projects detailed at LJC meeting on 9 th June 2011	£11,446
TOTAL budget carried forward	£16,932

Applications for funding to be considered at the Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee meeting on 13th October 2011, were discussed at the LJC pre-meeting on 28th September and recommendations totalling £17,151.72 are now put forward to the Whitchurch & Prees LJC for consideration. These are as follows:

	Project Name	£
K	Prees Cricket & Recreation Club – all-weather cricket pitch refurbishment	1976.72
L	St John's Methodist Church – Church clock face repairs and toilet improvements	1750.00
M	Stonham Housing – Open Doors	2000.00
N	79 Whitchurch Sqn, Air Training Cadets – replacement minibus	5000.00
O	Whitchurch Army Cadet League – Purchase of equipment	2075.00
P	Whitchurch Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society – Boogie Nights, The Musical	720.00
Q	Restocking of Sandford Pool following major fish kill	1965.00
R	Creation of Wildlife Area	1665.00
	TOTAL	£17,151.72

It is also requested that the Whitchurch & Prees LJC consider the amount of £800 to be put towards the resurfacing of the unadopted road in Prees:

	Total Project Applications for LJC on 13 th October 2011	£17,151.72
S	Towards resurfacing an unadopted road in Prees, which runs from the War Memorial, alongside the church to the rear entrance of Prees Primary School.	800.00
	TOTAL Funding Requested	£17,951.72

Please see Appendix A to this report for further details of each project.

	2011/12 Budget	£28,378.00
	Total of recommendations	£17,951.72
	Spend to date	£11,446.00
	Balance remaining	-£1,019.72

5. Future Funding

It was agreed by the Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee that applications for funding, up to a maximum of £2,000.00 would be considered by the Committee, apart from when an application takes into account exceptional circumstances.

Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee is requested to approve the delegation of authority to the Community Action Office, in consultation with the Local Joint Committee Chair (or Vice-Chair in their absence), to determine urgent and time sensitive funding applications and that the Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee constitution be amended with immediate effect.

Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee is requested to approve the payment of £800 towards the project to resurface the unadopted road in Prees, total cost of the project is £10,000.

Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee is requested to turn down the application for payment of £5600 towards the project to provide lights and lighting for the footpath joining Alkington Road and Wheatsheaf Drive, the costs of the project are too expensive.

For more information about applying for an LJC grant and to get an application form, contact Nicki Young, Community Action Officer on 01939 237429 or via e-mail at nicki.young@shropshire.gov.uk

The closing date for the next application round is Friday 24th February 2012.

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 13th January 2011.

Amendment to LJC Constitution Report to Full Council dated 23rd June 2011.

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Gwyllam Butler

Local Member

Councillor Gerald Dakin

Councillor Peggy Mullock

Councillor Thomas Biggins

Councillor Paul Wynn

Appendices

A. Applications/Projects Applied for Funding to Whitchurch & Prees LJC 13.10.11