



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: 17 November 2015

Committee:
South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee

Date: Wednesday, 25 November 2015
Time: 7.00 pm
Venue: Worthen Village Hall, Worthen, SY5 9HT

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee

Charlotte Barnes	Heather Kidd
Andrew Beaven	Gordon Lewis
Jane Carroll	Godfrey May
Andrew Craig	James McVicar
John Croxton	Ian Owen
Gittins	Jonathan Roberts
Nigel Hartin	Andrew Semple
Brian Ince	Valerie Whately

Your Officer is:

Mathew Mead Community Enablement Officer
Tel: 01743 252534
Email: mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Apologies

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

3 Note of the Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the note of the meeting held on Thursday 9th July (attached marked item 1)

4 Presentation - Future Fit Update

To give an update on the Shropshire Future Fit Programme and its next stages. Followed by questions from the Committee and members of the public.

5 South West Shropshire LJC Grant Scheme

To receive a report on applications made to the grants scheme for discussion and approval (marked item 2)

6 Youth Commissioning in South West Shropshire (Pages 7 - 12)

Progress report on Youth Commissioning intentions of the LJC from the Community Enablement Officer for discussion and action by the Committee (marked item 3)

7 Public Question Time

To receive questions to Councillors on issues from the area.

8 Future Agenda Items

To identify potential agenda items for discussion at future meetings as raised by Committee Members or members of the public

9 Date of Next Meeting

Suggested meeting dates

Planning Meeting

Thursday 18th February

Full Public Meeting

Thursday 17th March

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Committee and Date

Item

1

Public

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH
JULY 7.00 PM – 9.00 PM**

**AT
LYDHAM VILLAGE HALL, LYDHAM**

Responsible Officer Mathew Mead
e-mail: mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252534

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Heather Kidd	Chirbury & Worthen (Chair)
Charlotte Barnes	Bishop's Castle
Nigel Hartin	Clun

Town/Parish Councils

John Croxton	Clunbury Parish Council
Jonathan Roberts	Clungunford PC
Jane Carroll	Bishops Castle Town Council
Valerie Whately	Bettws-y-Crwyn Parish Council
Sandra Davies	Newcastle on Clun Parish Council
Ian Graves	Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council
Andrew Craig	Chirbury Parish Council
Oliver Goode	Myndtown Parish Council
Godfrey May	Lydbury North Parish Council
Brian Ince	Worthen with Shelve Parish Council

Officers Present:

Mathew Mead, Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council
George Candler, Shropshire Council, Director of Commissioning
Councillor Steve Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Business, IP&E, Culture and Commissioning

28 members of the public were in attendance

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Mathew Mead welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Gordon Lewis (Mainstone); Andrew Beavan (Llanfairwaterdine Parish Council); James McVicar (Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn)

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2015/16

As this was the first public meeting of 2015/16 the positions of chair and vice chair for the year needed to be voted for by the Committee.

Charlotte Barnes was nominated and elected as Chair with Jonathan Roberts nominated and elected as Vice Chair for the coming year

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No declarations were declared

4. Notes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the previous LJC on which was held on 12th March.

5. Presentation – George Chandler and Steve Charmley

Future of services in the Local Joint Committee including SpArc Leisure Centre; Community College; and Library Services

George thanked the Committee for their invitation to speak to the meeting.

Commissioning – where Shropshire Council commissioned organisations or groups to run services on their behalf – was not new in Shropshire and had been happening for some time. However it was now moving into new service areas, and different models of commissioning are emerging. There are two main reasons for this development. One is to reflect differences in localities where community groups maybe better placed to run services; and the second is external financial pressures the Council is facing

George explained that over the last few years Shropshire Council had made a range of savings, and were currently in the second year of a three year programme to save £80 million. Some service such as education, were ring-fenced from these savings which meant the pressure to reduce spending was falling more heavily on other service areas. The latest budget suggested that this period of austerity was likely to continue for at least the next three year's, and in all probability the Central Government Revenue Support Grant to local councils would effectively end during that period. The Council needed to become self-sustaining from the revenue it receives through Council tax and income in gains from running services. The Council needed to focus on the services it has a statutory duty to deliver, whilst looking for new ways of delivering other services which were important to the public. But the days of assuming the Council will always provide a service are coming to an end.

The demographics of Shropshire are also a big influence on Council spending. With an older than average population the county has extra care costs, which as the result of the Care Act the Council has a responsibility to meet. These costs are predicted to rise in the future.

At the same time changes to government legislation is allowing smaller town and parish councils to take on more services, and community groups can also ask to run services. These local delivery models can provide local solutions and often be run more efficiently at a local level.

Members of the Committee asked what percentage of the budget had the Council had to save over the last 6 years, and what impact this had on staff.

George responded that over a 6 year period the Council had seen its budget reduce by around 35%. However due to some service areas being ring-fenced from cuts these reductions had resulted in a bigger impact to some service areas than others. In that time period the Council staff levels had reduced by about 1000. They now employed 3,500 staff but some of these could well transfer to new service providers in the future.

The Council therefore faced a series of challenges and were looking at different models of delivery to be able to maintain services. Commissioning services through partnership working was one area to achieve this, and another was the Council generating more of its own income. This had seen the development of IP&E.

Steve Charmley explained that IP&E is a trading company run by the Council. By placing services such as communications, planning, environmental health and business design into this company it opened up the opportunities to bid for external contracts and earn income. It has taken 2-3 years to set up, but in 2015/16 is likely to have a turnover of £12 million. It is Council owned and should not be seen as privatisation by the back door. Further Councils services, such as Shire Services could move into IP&E in the future.

George then went on to speak about some more specific challenges at a local level. Sports and Leisure Centres were being looked at across Shropshire. Such centres were commissioned to groups such as Teme Leisure (in Bishop's Castle) to run. The Council is having to make savings from its leisure budget, so are working with leisure providers to look at new delivery models. This could see opening times at Leisure Centres reduced, or the range of services available – such as the swimming pool reviewed.

Members of the public stressed that having access to leisure service in Bishop's Castle, were really important to the physical and mental health of the community, and cuts to the services available would have a long term cost to public health.

Alan Doust from Bishop's Castle Community College also spoke and said the schools were also affected by changes to government funding. An example of this was Joint Use Funding where schools shared a site with a leisure centre. Changes to this funding by Central Government meant that the Community College would lose about £60,000 over the next three years. This together with other issues such as lower intake levels of new pupils was putting real pressure on school budgets. Alan acknowledged that the Council was in a difficult position with funding, but needed to consider that delivering all services in rural areas had a higher cost than in urban areas.

George agreed with the points the public and Alan made. However the Council was in a very difficult position as they want to maintain services but have to meet the costs savings needed over the next few years. Some difficult decisions have to be taken.

Steve Charmley agreed and said that Shropshire Council would soon be undertaking a countywide consultation with the public to ask their opinions on what services the Council needed to focus on in the future and where cost savings could be made. However these were difficult decisions with no easy answers. They were also

encouraging community groups to speak to them if they were interested in delivering services, and gave the example of some libraries which are now being run by Community Groups such as at Craven Arms. Consultations were about to start on a similar model for Bishop's Castle library

Committee members and the public asked whether reducing costs of running leisure centres was being looked at. A lot of the cost of a leisure centre, particularly a pool, was through energy costs.

George responded that this was being looked at in Bishop's Castle and other sites. Energy efficiency was important and sites might also be able to generate energy to sell back to the national grid and generate some income. Investing in renewable energy was something the Council was looking at where it produced long term savings.

Members of the public felt that whilst commissioning of services did offer the Council opportunities to improve services, they needed to have very good contracting skills and knowledge. Many providers are multi-national companies with big legal teams who can challenge contracts if things are not working well. Oliver Goode stated that outcomes associated with adult social care are very complex and a wide range of data needs to be collected to monitor these services.

George agreed with this and said the Council had to get the right contract for commissioning to work correctly. They were investing in staff skills to support the new commissioning process and were also investigating developing a diploma course with the new university in Shrewsbury. As part of the commissioning process the Council was also encouraging providers of services to say how they themselves would monitor the work, and what outcomes they would achieve. It is a new process for both parties and definitely something Shropshire Council needs to consider carefully.

Committee members gave the example of BT delivering the Broadband Rollout in Shropshire of how a big company can heavily influence a delivery programme.

Steve commented that the BT programme was a large funding programme, so had to comply with EU tendering rules. In phases 1 and 2 the aim had been to deliver the fast broadband speeds to as many properties as possible and get best value for the contract. Phase three will focus on getting the broadband speeds in hard to reach areas up to speed, local solutions will be the way forward for this. Finance isn't always the main issue and technological reasons are also an issue. Shropshire Council was also working with other local authorities to find out how best to work with contractors and get the best value for money.

Committee members suggested that the volunteer and community sector would need to play a big role in this new Commissioning model. What support was available to them to help them deliver services.

George responded that the Community and Volunteer sector was receiving support through Shropshire Council, and also national organisations to help them develop new working models to deliver services. He gave the examples of Craven Arms and Bishop's Castle Libraries where community based organisations are looking to run

the libraries. Funding would still come from Shropshire Council, who would be the responsible body for the funding. But by working in partnership with these organisations cost savings can be made whilst also maintaining important local services.

However there were important issues around staffing, building maintenance and legal responsibilities that community and volunteer groups needed to consider, and it was important Shropshire Council gave support around these areas.

6. South West Shropshire Grants Scheme

The Committee received a report on the status of the grant scheme. £1,500 had now been donated to the scheme, and some further donations were expected.

Since the last meeting two new applications had been received.

The Everest Hall in Llanfairwaterdine had requested a grant of £119.92 to help install new insulation in the hall

Rectory Gardens Lunch Club in Worthen had requested a grant of £150 towards the cost of establishing a computer club to help local residents get online and be able to access financial and benefit services. As part of this application they had also requested that a previous grant of £500 from the LJC for a gardening project, be reallocated to this project.

Both applications were approved by the Committee.

Mathew Mead asked that members of the Committee circulate details of the South West Shropshire Grants scheme to community groups who might be interested in applying.

7. Youth Commissioning in South West Shropshire

A report on the progress of Youth Commissioning was presented to the Committee.

The LJC had £3,000 to allocate to Youth Activities in the area and the LJC would ideally like to support the following activity

- A one night a week youth club in Bishop's Castle
- Outreach work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour
- Work with Police and Fire Service to reduce accident rates amongst young drivers
- Support volunteer youth clubs in the LJC area

Mathew reported that a tender had been issued to potential providers to quote for the youth club in Bishop's Castle. Interested parties had until 3rd August to submit applications which could then be reviewed by the Committee.

It was likely that the costs of running a club in Bishop's Castle would exceed £3,000 so some matched funding maybe required. Jane Carroll said Bishop's Castle Town Council might consider providing some matched funding as long as it could be demonstrated that Bishop's Castle youngsters would benefit from the project.

John Croxton suggested that there was little youth provision in the Clun Valley area, and this work didn't really address that. Mathew said this was a concern as the LJC area was so large. However the funding was limited and so the Committee would have to consider where best to allocate the limited resources they had.

8. Public Question Time

No questions were received from the public

9. Future Agenda Items

The Committee requested that Future Fit should be discussed at a future meeting, as decisions on the future of health care in Shropshire, particularly the location of A&E units was likely to be taken later in the year.

A number of Committee members also expressed a need for an update on Planning in Shropshire. This should cover the wider policy issues, and also issues around Enforcement.

The Community Enablement Officer would look to arrange speakers on these topics for future meetings

10. Date of next meetings

Full public meetings were scheduled for

Thursday 22nd October and Thursday 18th February

Planning meetings for the Committee only were set for 24th September and 21st January

There may also be the need to hold additional planning meetings to review the results of the Youth Commissioning tenders.

Chair: _____

Date:



Committee and date
South West Shropshire
Local Joint Committee
Meeting

25th November 2015,
Worthen Village Hall

7.00 pm

Item

3

Public

YOUTH COMMISSIONING FOR THE SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE AREA.

Responsible Officer

Email: mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252534

1. Summary

This report summarises the progress of development of the new youth commissioning model developed by Shropshire Council to deliver youth activities to young people across the county and the planned local implementation by South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee.

Recommendations

- A The LJC Committee note that no tenders were submitted to Shropshire Council when an invitation to tender for a youth club in Bishop's Castle was issued. It is therefore recommended not to pursue the establishment of a youth club in Bishop's Castle
- B It is Proposed to allocate £1,000 from the Bishop's Castle LJC to deliver outreach youth work in the LJC, and to commission Irene Stelfox to undertake out-reach work with young people in the area.
- C That the LJC support "The Honest Truth" partnership with a grant from the South West Shropshire Community Grants Scheme.
- D To establish a small grants scheme which volunteer led youth clubs can apply. £2,000 of the LJC budget should be allocated, with a maximum grant available of £500. This grant scheme will be judged by Committee members via email to allow grants to be allocated outside of full LJC meetings.

REPORT

2. Background

The role of public services is changing. Shropshire Council is moving rapidly to become a council that does more commissioning of activity and less direct delivery of services. The Council wants to meet its statutory duty and to continue to improve outcomes for young people in a sustainable way by developing a commissioning model, which is based on a locality approach, allowing management of the budgets

the council has, alongside other existing provision in a community, based on evidence and outcomes, and closely integrated with other support for children and young people.

The aim is to ensure that as many young people as possible, can access a wide range of youth activities after school, at weekends and in school holidays, with young people involved in their development.

This approach combines working at a local level with increased participation from young people and the community. The Council will commission on the basis of needs, outcomes and partnership working.

LJCs will locally inform and direct the commissioning of youth activity in their areas and will receive Shropshire Council budget for this. This reflects the council's ambition for LJCs to become local governance structures that enable local councillors, town and parish councils, communities and partners to shape and influence how public money is spent locally and to work with officers in their role as local commissioners.

Money has been allocated to individual LJCs based on two factors:

- **A youth specific Needs Assessment:**
- **Rurality** based on the population density of 10 to 19 years olds

In the case of The South West Shropshire LJC, an amount of £3,000 has been allocated as a result of the lower population density under the rurality allocation.

3. Progress since the last meeting in July

At the LJC meeting in July the Committee established its priorities for spending the £3,000 to allocate to Youth Activities in the area and the LJC, which were

- A one night a week youth club in Bishop's Castle
- Outreach work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour
- Work with Police and Fire Service to reduce accident rates amongst young drivers
- Support volunteer youth clubs in the LJC area

One night a week youth club in Bishop's Castle

A tender asking interested parties to bid to run a youth club in Bishop's Castle was issued by Shropshire Council in July 2105, and tenders closed on 3rd August. Unfortunately no tenders were submitted for the opportunity at Bishop's Castle

Subsequent to this the Community Enablement Officer, in partnership with Irene Stelfox (Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme coordinator in Bishop's Castle) a drop in session to encourage volunteers to come forward to help establish a youth club in Bishop's Castle was held on 8th October. Volunteer opportunities were also promoted through the Town Council and other networks in the town. However no volunteers have come forward.

At this stage it would seem unlikely therefore that a youth club can be established in Bishop's Castle.

Recommendation: Not to pursue the establishment of a youth club in Bishop's Castle

Outreach work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

The LJC, Bishop's Castle Town Council and other agencies have identified a need within the LJC to be able to react to issues of anti-social behaviour, and groups of children congregating in areas of Bishop's Castle, and also other villages in the LJC.

Discussions between the enablement officer and Irene Stelfox have taken place to discuss this work.

From previous experience it is suggested that detached youth work – that is a youth worker based in the Community, rather than at a building - is the best way of tackling this type of behaviour amongst young people. The youth worker would target areas and groups and young people, engage them in conversation and look to identify why they are not engaging in other activities available to them.

From these initial outreach sessions the youth worker would then look to work with young people to engage them in other activities taking place in the area which might appeal to them, or establish new activities in the area.

Initial discussions with the South Shropshire Housing Association suggest that an application to their Community Fund, but young people, would be considered by them to establish new activities in the town. Similarly the Bishop's Castle Town Council has indicated it would support new activities in the town.

Recommendation: It is therefore proposed to allocate £1,000 from the Bishop's Castle LJC for this piece of work, and to commission Irene Stelfox to undertake outreach work with young people in the area.

Work with Police and Fire Service to reduce accident rates amongst young drivers

The South West Shropshire LJC area has a higher than average level of road traffic accidents involving teenage drivers, and tackling this was seen as a priority for the LJC

Discussions with the Police and Fire Service have taken place and highlighted that a safer driver scheme called the Honest Truth has been established. Run in partnership with Driving Instructors and Motoring Schools it provides additional awareness training for young drivers on behaviour when they are driving, with the aim of reducing accidents and fatalities.

Recommendation: As this scheme is aimed at 16-25 year olds (an older age group than the Youth Commissioning funding can be spent on) so it is proposed that the LJC support this scheme through the South West Shropshire Grants scheme. (See item marked 3)

Support volunteer youth clubs in the LJC area

Within the LJC there are a number of volunteer led clubs, which provide activities for young people. These include youth clubs; uniformed groups; sports clubs and church groups and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

These groups have identified a need for additional funding to support their work, either in the form of new equipment and resources, or to offer young people new experiences through day trips or one off activity sessions.

Recommendation: To establish a small grants scheme which volunteer led youth clubs can apply. £2,000 of the LJC budget should be allocated, with a maximum grant available of £500. Grants should meet the following criteria

- Organisations applying must be affiliated to the Shropshire Youth Association, or other governing body
- All organisations should meet basic Child Safe Guarding criteria
- Grants will only be used to fund new activities or purchase of equipment, not the on-going costs of running the clubs
- Groups will need to identify the benefits the funding will bring to young people in their group, and be able to evaluate the success of the grant

Outline grant application forms have been prepared by Shropshire Council to support this process

4. Financial Implications

The South West Shropshire LJC has a budget of £3,000 for 2015/16. The recommendations set out in this report would allocate all of this budget. However a further £3000 should be available in 2016/17 when further activities can be commissioned.

The next LJC is not scheduled until March 2016, it is proposed that the grant scheme element of this project is evaluated by the LJC Committee members via email. The assessment will be coordinated by the Community Enablement officer and grants awarded to projects where the majority of the LJC are in favour of supporting the project.

5. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

In determining these recommendations the LJC has considered reputational risk and the course of action minimises this risk.

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

The proposals under consideration will improve the levels of community based and community driven youth activity in the LJC area.

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

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
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Steve Charmley

Local Member

Heather Kidd, Charlotte Barnes, Nigel Hartin
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Appendices

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