

## Report to Cabinet 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### Local commissioning of youth activities - proposals for changes to the funding of targeted geographical provision

Shropshire Council asked people for their views on a proposed reduction of, and changes to, funding that supports the provision of youth activities.

A public consultation ran from 1st November 2017 to 5th January 2018.

The council proposed to introduce a revised and simplified funding formula based on just two measures: the relative number of young people aged 10 to 19 years old, and young people in receipt of free school meals in a Local Joint Committee (LJC) area. It was proposed that the proposed formula longer made specific reference to rurality.

335 responses were received through the council's consultation web portal along with a number of narrative responses from local councils and youth clubs that would have been affected by the proposed changes. The vast majority of these responses disagreed with the proposals within the consultation.

There was strong support for the council continuing to fund youth activities in rural areas, keep rurality considerations in the funding formula and continue to offer grants to small voluntary clubs.

### Consultation feedback

Q1

From the following list which is your Local Joint Committee area?

Changes to provision of youth activities		
<b>From the following list which is your Local Joint Committee area?</b>		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Albrighton area LJC	0.90%	3
Bayston Hill LJC	0.30%	1
Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley & Claverley, Brown Clee LJC	1.19%	4
Broseley and Barrow LJC	5.37%	18
Cleobury and Rural LJC	4.18%	15
Craven Arms and Rural LJC	6.27%	23
Ellesmere area LJC	0.30%	1
Gobowen Selattyn, St Martins, Weston Rhyn LJC	10.15%	34
Highley and Chelmarsh LJC	0.00%	0
Loton, Longden, Ford, and Rea Valley LJC	12.84%	59
Ludlow and Clee area LJC	7.16%	25
Market Drayton area LJC	0.60%	2
Much Wenlock LJC	0.30%	1
Oswestry LJC	0.90%	3
Shifnal and Sheriffhales LJC	0.30%	1
Shrewsbury wide LJC	13.13%	44
South West Shropshire LJC	6.87%	52

St Oswald and Llanymynech area LJC	0.90%	3
StrettonDale LJC	1.79%	9
Tern & Severn Valley LJC	0.30%	4
The Five Perry Parishes LJC	0.00%	1
Wem and Shawbury area LJC	10.45%	37
Whitchurch and Prees LJC	1.79%	6
Cover the whole of the county		3
Outside Shropshire		2
I don't know which is my local LJC area	14.03%	47
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>335</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>0</b>

### Q2,Q3,Q4,Q5 – summary of responses below

	YES number	NO number	YES %	NO %
Q2 - do you agree with the proposal to reduce council funding in support of youth activity	10	325	2.99%	97.01%
Q3 - do you agree with the proposal to remove rurality considerations from the funding formula	15	320	4.48%	95.52%
Q4 - do you agree with the proposal to allocate funding to the larger market towns?	34	301	10.15%	89.85%
Q5 - do you agree with the proposal to remove grants to small voluntary clubs?	16	319	4.78%	95.22%

### Q6 - summary of responses below

Do you have any other ideas for how Shropshire Council should use its limited resources to support the provision of youth activities in local communities and on how resources should be prioritised?

### Q7

Are you a...?	Young person	22.99%	79
	Parent/carer	32.54%	114
	LJC member	2.69%	15
	Representative of an organisation that provides youth activities	15.82%	65
	Representative of another organisation with an interest in the provision of youth activities	3.88%	13
	Other, e.g. interested residents	22.09%	49

**Q8**

77 responses 258 skipped

	Yes - number	No - number	Yes %	No %
Do you attend a youth club?	59	18	76.62%	23.38%

**Q9**

108 responses 227 skipped

	Yes - number	No - number	Yes %	No %
Does your child/the person you care for attend a youth club?	46	62	42.59%	57.41%

**Q10****Are you a Shropshire Councillor or a parish councillor?**

10 responses were received – 2 people said they were Shropshire Councillors, 7 said they were parish councillors and 1 said they were both.

**Q11****Which organisation do you represent?**

61 responses were received from representatives of a wide variety of organisations providing activities for young people.

**Key themes that emerged through the consultation****Q2 – do you agree with the proposal to reduce council funding in support of youth activity - If no, please state why**

Youth clubs are needed to provide organised activities that young people benefit from physically, socially and emotionally.

Free activities are accessible to families on low incomes.

Youth activities are important and should be supported to continue.

Small amounts of funding make a big difference to what can be provided in communities for young people.

Young people should be supported- particularly those living in rural areas that potentially have fewer opportunities.

**Q3 - Do you agree with the proposal to remove rurality considerations from the funding formula - If no, please state why**

It is unfair to propose that rural areas need funding less than the market towns.

You are suggesting that rural areas are less important than the towns.

Transport is a barrier to accessing activities in the towns from the rural areas.

There is a risk of isolation within rural communities if activities aren't available and accessible.

**Q4 - Do you agree with the proposal to allocate funding to the larger market towns? If no, please state why.**

The larger market towns have a range of activity for young people, whilst the smaller towns and villages have nothing apart from the council funded activity.  
Youth activity in the market towns should continue to be funded, but not at the expense of the rural areas.

**Q5 - Do you agree with the proposal to remove grants to small voluntary clubs? If no, please state why.**

The voluntary clubs would not be able to provide all the activities they currently offer without additional grant funding.  
Small voluntary clubs are at the heart of communities and should be supported to continue.  
Small grants can attract further funding from other sources.  
The financial support that clubs can access will make a difference between them keeping going or closing.

**Q6 - Do you have any other ideas for how Shropshire Council should use its limited resources to support the provision of youth activities in local communities and on how resources should be prioritised?**

Use money currently earmarked for other initiatives that are seen as being less important.  
Fundraising and sponsorship.  
Use the assets and resources already available in communities.  
Adopt a more targeted approach to the use of the available funding.  
Attract more volunteers to help deliver youth clubs and activities.

ENDS