



Committee and Date  
South West Shropshire Local  
Joint Committee

**Clun Memorial Hall,  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm**

Item

**2**

Public

## **SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE – LOCAL GRANTS SCHEME UPDATE REPORT**

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### **1. Summary**

This report summaries the development of the South West Shropshire Community Grant scheme, to be administered through the Local Joint Committee, with support from Town and Parish Councils in the area. The grant scheme aims to support small scale community and volunteer led projects.

### **Recommendations**

- A. That the LJC note the existing levels of funding committed to the grant scheme as being ...
- B. All Town and Parish Councils are written to, updating them on the grant scheme and requesting those that have yet to support the scheme are asked to contribute
- C. Town and Parish Councils are asked to review the business directory, and suggest additions and amendments to the list, and where appropriate make contact with businesses who may wish to contribute to the scheme
- D. That the LJC agree the criteria for a small grants scheme, and invitations to apply for funding are circulated to volunteer and community groups, with the first round of applications being assessed by the LJC in June 2015.

### **2. Background**

Between April 2009 and March 2014 the Local Joint Committee operated a grant scheme, funded by Shropshire Council. Grants were assessed by the Committee on a quarterly basis and awarded to local community groups and organisations.

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Shropshire Council took the decision to withdraw this grant funding from April 2014. However Committee members felt that a small grants scheme was still important to the area as it helps support local organisations; provides the Committee with the ability to support identified areas of work and can also be helpful in helping bring in further external funding to the area such as lottery grants.

Work was undertaken to look at developing a grants scheme that could be operated through the LJC and Town and Parish Councils in the LJC were approached to support the grant scheme.

### **3. Grant development**

Letters requesting support for the grant scheme were sent to all Town and Parish Councils in the autumn of 2014, and as of 26/01/15 **£1,400** had been paid into the grants scheme, made up of 4 £100 payments from Councils, and 1 £1,000 payment from a business. A further £300 has been committed to the scheme, but has yet to be paid into the account.

This funding is being administered by Shropshire Council, through the Community Enablement Team, at no additional cost to the Committee.

Parish Councils are seen as being a key element of the process as the Committee feels that can act as local advocates of the grant scheme and promote the scheme to their communities. Publicity material to support the scheme is also being produced.

A business directory has been produced (Appendix 1) which Committee members and Parish and Town Councils are asked to review and add to using their local knowledge and to approach businesses in their area with a view to supporting the scheme.

### **4. Grant criteria**

To promote the grants scheme, and to help start allocating the funding which has already been received, it is proposed that a small amount of the fund is distributed to voluntary and community groups in the LJC during May/June 2015.

A grant criteria is attached in Appendix 2, but is summarised as follows

- A total of £500 will be allocated to community projects, and decisions made on application at the June 2015 LJC meeting.
- The maximum grant available will be £150 and should be matched funded by at least 50% of cash from the applicant
- Projects must be based in, and support residents in, the Local Joint Committee area
- Applications are only open to charities, volunteer led organisations or social enterprises
- The grant scheme will open to applications on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, and applications must be received by Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Applications will be

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reviewed by the LJC planning meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May, and a final decision on which grants to support will be made at the full LJC on 18<sup>th</sup> June

## **5. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

### **Risk Management Appraisal**

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

### **Human Rights**

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

### **Community and other Consultation**

Consideration has been given to the public opinion expressed at the previous Local meetings

## **4. Financial Implications**

NA

## **5. Background**

NA

## **6. Additional Information**

NA

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b> Steve Charmley
<b>Local Members</b> Nigel Hartin, Heather Kidd, Charlotte Barnes
<b>Appendices</b> Appendix 1 – South West Shropshire Business Directory Appendix 2 – Draft Community Grant scheme criteria

