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**Stourbridge Area Committee - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Capital Allocations**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider four applications for capital allocations, and a request to extend the period within which a previous allocation is to be claimed.

**Background**

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £32,784.66 for 2005/6.
3. The Area Committee has previously agreed that contributions from the budget will be limited to £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. Spending proposals are invited from members of the Area Committee, the public, representative organisations and Council departments, and each proposal is assessed against the following criteria:-
  - (a) The allocation is to be spent on “capital” schemes as defined by legislation, i.e. “one-off” type expenditure on acquisition, construction, enhancement of land, roads, buildings, equipment or vehicles, which may also include the making of grants or loans for capital expenditure by others;
  - (b) Schemes should contribute to the Community Plan and should not conflict with existing Council policy;
  - (c) Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, i.e. not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups, and should make a difference in the local area;
  - (d) Schemes should not result in any ongoing revenue cost to the Council;
  - (e) Consideration should be given to schemes which might generate external funding (i.e. using the allocation as match-funding); and
  - (f) Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value.
  - (g) Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.

4. Copies of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

#### **Application by the Stourbridge Cyber Bus Project**

5. The Stourbridge Cyber Bus Project is based at the Valley Road Youth and Community Centre, Providence Street, Lye.
6. The Project is a registered Charity which was formed in 2001. It provides a mobile youth service for young people through two converted buses with IT and leisure facilities. The project caters for young people between the ages of nine and eighteen years.
7. The project is asking for a capital allocation of £3,021.31 to cover the replacement of a worn-out engine of one of the buses, the fitting of a new engine and other associated costs.
8. The project is dependent upon funding from a number of sources including a previous capital allocation awarded by the Area Committee.
9. This application complies with the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

#### **Application by the Norton Social Club**

10. The Norton Social Club is based at 25 Osmaston Road, Norton and its general aims are to provide good fellowship, recreation and entertainment for its members.
11. Membership is open to any person over the age of eighteen but the committee have the power to accept or refuse any application without stating a reason for refusal.
12. The current membership is 260 of whom 240 live within Stourbridge and another 10 within the borough as a whole. The spouse of a member automatically becomes an Associate Member. 10 members are from ethnic minorities and a further 5 are people with disabilities.
13. The club's accounts for 2004 show a loss of just under £3,000 and net current assets of £1,848. The total net assets of £127,932 include investments of £14,000.
14. The application is for a capital allocation of £2,000 towards the cost of replacing or recovering furniture in the lounge area of the club and replacing the carpet in the lounge. The total cost of this work is £2,720 and the balance will be found by the club.
15. The Committee is asked to consider whether this application meets the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

### **Application by Stourbridge Cricket Club**

16. Stourbridge Cricket Club have submitted an application to assist with the cost of removing the existing wooden window frames at the club pavilion and replace them with double glazed PVCu units of the same style and shape. This would make the pavilion more sustainable with the added advantage of increased security and energy conservation.
17. The total cost of this work is £6,310 and the application is for a grant of £5,000 with the balance to be funded by the Club.
18. The latest accounts for the Club for the year ending the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004 show that the Club had net current assets of £1,385 having made a net profit for the year of £1,984.
19. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

### **Application by the Friends of St Mary's Communal Garden**

20. The St Mary's Communal Garden is situated at the rear of St Mary's Parish Church in Rectory Road, Oldswinford.
21. The object of the Friends of St Mary's Communal Garden is to provide secure and safe facilities and equipment for children who use the Church and the Church Hall.
22. Membership of the Friends is open to any individual over the age of eighteen whose children attend the clubs within the Church Hall and have an interest in furthering the object of the organisation.
23. The application from the Friends is for a capital allocation of £5,000 towards the cost of £17,500 of providing secure wrought iron fencing around the perimeter of the communal garden.
24. To date the Friends have only raised funding of £1,500 and, if the application for a capital allocation were to be approved, it would have to be subject to the balance of funding being secured.
25. This application appears to comply with the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Movement**

26. At its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2005 the Area Committee approved a capital allocation of £5,000 to the 15<sup>th</sup> Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Movement towards the cost of erecting a purpose build brick building as a Scout and Guide Headquarters.
27. It is a condition of grant that the allocation should be claimed within 6 months. However, the applicant has explained that the project is based upon a successful bid to the Lottery Fund. Unfortunately this bid was refused on a technicality and the applicant is reapplying in October 2005 though the outcome of the bid will not be known until early 2006.

28. In the circumstances the applicant has asked for an extension of time to claim the allocation. If this is acceptable to the Area Committee, I would suggest that the extension be granted to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

### **Finance**

29. The Area Committee's delegated budget allocation is funded by the Council's mainstream capital resources. The current position with regard to available resources for 2005/6 is set out in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

### **Law**

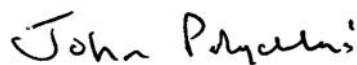
30. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

### **Equality Impact**

31. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity.

### **Recommendation**

32. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by the Stourbridge Cyber Bus Project, the Norton Social Club, Stourbridge Cricket Club and the Friends of St Mary's Communal Gardens, and the application for an extension requested by the 15<sup>th</sup> Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Movement.



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**John Polychronakis**  
**Area Liaison Officer**

Contact Officer: John Polychronakis  
Telephone: 01384 5300  
Email: john.polychronakis@dudley.gov.uk

### **List of Background Papers**

1. Application submitted by Stourbridge Cyber Bus Project
2. Application submitted by Norton Social Club
3. Application submitted by Stourbridge Cricket Club
4. Application submitted by the Friends of St Mary's Communal Garden
5. Request for extension submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Movement