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## **Stourbridge Area Committee – 15 June 2009**

### **Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

#### **Capital Allocations**

##### **Purpose of Report**

1. To consider an application for a capital allocation.

##### **Background**

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £62,898.09 for 2009/10, after deducting a £10,000 contribution towards Mary Steven's gates. The unallocated amount also includes the new allocation for 2009/10 of £50,000.
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 directorates, 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) For projects with a value of £1,000 or more applications will only be approved if:-
    1. the applicant can demonstrate that they will secure at least 50% of the cost of the project either from their own resources or from some other funding; and
    2. the applicant has not been awarded a capital allocation by the Committee or a grant from the Stevens Trust within the preceding three years.

Except, in either case, in the opinion of the Area Committee, there are special circumstances which would warrant the approval of

the application in the public interest.

- (c) Schemes should contribute to the Community Plan and should not conflict with existing Council policy;
- (d) 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;
- (e) Schemes should not result in any ongoing revenue cost to the Council;
- (f) Consideration should be given to schemes which might generate external funding (i.e. using the allocation as match-funding);
- (g) Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value; and
- (h) Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.

#### **Application by Wollaston Village Community Association**

- 4. An application has been received from Wollaston Village Community Association, for a capital allocation of £1,910.92 to fund the cost of purchasing fencing to improve the security of the facilities at the site. The site has been subject to increased levels of vandalism and has also suffered an arson attack.
- 5. The sum requested is the total cost of the project. Given that the amount requested is in excess of £1,000, it is expected that the applicant will secure at least 50% of the project from their own resources or some other funding. At the time of submitting the application the organisation was unaware of the match funding criteria for projects costing more than £1,000.
- 6. The aim of the Organisation is to support the residents of Wollaston through providing facilities in the interests of education, social welfare and leisure time activities. The association currently has 273 members, with approximately 60% of these residing within Stourbridge.
- 7. The latest income and expenditure account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 indicates a net increase in funds of £1,302
- 8. The organisation has not been awarded any funds in the last 3 years.

#### **Application by Barnardo's Time for Me Project**

- 9. An application has been received from Barnardo's Time for Me Project for a capital allocation of £900 towards a project costing £12,000 as per letter from Barnardo's dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (the application form quotes a total project cost of £11,500). The Project has applied to each of the 5 Area Committees for

an allocation of £900. The applicant has secured funding of £7,500 from Home Serve via a community project competition. The funding is to be used to create a fire escape from the part of the building that the group occupies and to purchase a sink, table and chairs to be used by the groups using the Youth Centre.

10. The aim of the organisation is to help and support children and young people of the Borough who are affected by substance misuse in their homes. The project provides one to one support in schools and run weekly group sessions at the Source Youth Centre. This enables the children and young people to have fun and participate in activities that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to do.
11. Over half of the children and young people who are supported by the time for me project come from the Stourbridge Area, specifically the Hob Green area.
12. The group has not submitted a set of accounts or a copy of the organisation's constitution.
13. Barnardo's Time for Me Project has not received any allocations from the Committee in the preceding 3 years.

#### **Application by Stourbridge & District Chamber of Trade (Stourbridge in Bloom)**

14. An application has been received from Stourbridge & District Chamber of Trade (Stourbridge in Bloom) for a capital allocation of £5,000 towards a project costing upto £10,000. The funding would be used to purchase automatic watering systems, half barrel planters, barrier baskets and a three tier planter.
15. The aim of the organisation is to develop and add colour and charm to Stourbridge Town Centre and the approaching highways and to encourage local groups and businesses to work in partnership to attain further Heart of England awards through the Royal Horticultural Society.
16. The group has not submitted a set of its accounts or a copy of the organisation's contribution.
17. The application does not meet the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 3 b point 2 as the organisation was awarded an application of £5,000 at the Area Committee of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

#### **Application by Stourbridge Radio Group Limited**

18. An application has been received from Stourbridge Radio Group Limited for a capital allocation of £5,000 towards the purchase of an outside broadcasting unit. The overall project costs are £13,437.75 with the balance is being funded by Stourbridge Radio Group's own resources.
19. The Bridge is a local radio station operating under a community radio licence by local people for the benefit of local people. The group provides local community information, coverage of local community events on a level not provided by other radio stations. The organisation has 69 members providing the service with 60 of these residing within Stourbridge.

20. The Income and Expenditure accounts provided show a surplus of income over expenditure of £513.
21. The Group has not received and funding from the area committee within the last 3 years.
22. A planning application submitted by The Bridge for the new mast has recently been turned down.

### **Application by Lye & Wollescote Partnership**

23. An application has been received from Lye & Wollescote Partnership for a capital allocation of £1,500 to install a “story telling chair” piece of community art to be located on the grounds of the Butterfly Children’s Centre. The total cost of the project is identified as £4,500 on the application. Lye & Wollescote Partnership are also submitting an application to Halesowen Area Committee for £850. The balance of the funding for the project has been identified from other sources.
24. The Partnership aims to promote opportunities to the inhabitants of Lye & Wollescote, who may be in hardship due to their social and economic circumstances, through the provision of access to education, training and development opportunities.
25. The statement of accounts provided by the organisation for the period to 12.03.09 shows a balance of £8,395.83.
26. The Group has not received any funding from the Area Committee within the last 3 years.

### **Finance**

27. 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 2009/10 is set out in paragraph 2 of this report.

### **Law**

28. 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**

29. This report complies fully with the Council’s policies on equality and diversity.

### **Recommendation**

30. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by

Wollaston Village Community Association, Barnardo's Time for Me Project,  
Stourbridge District Chamber of Trade and Stourbridge Radio Group Limited.



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**List of Background Papers:**

1. Application submitted by Wollaston Village Community Association.
2. Application submitted by Barnardo's Time for Me Project.
3. Application submitted by Stourbridge & District Chamber of Trade Stourbridge in Bloom.
4. Application submitted by Stourbridge Radio Group Ltd.
5. Application by Lye & Wollescote Partnership.

