
Stourbridge Area Committee – 8th March 2011

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose of Report

1. To consider applications for a capital allocation.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £38,868.37 for 2010/11.
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.
- (i) Application forms and supporting documents can be viewed by Members on request to the Area Liaison Officer.

APPLICATIONS

4.1 Stourbridge and District Scout Council

- 4.2 An application has been received from Stourbridge and District Scout Council
- 4.3 The applicant is part of the Scouting Association which aims to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals as members of the local, national and international communities. The District Council is made up of representatives from the scout groups in the area and it appoints leaders and organises district events.
- 4.4 The applicant has in excess of 500 members from the local scout groups, 95% of whom are from the Stourbridge, mainly aged between 5 years to 18 years.
- 4.5 The application is for £1300 which is 50% of the cost of purchasing IT equipment and secure storage. It will be used for various administration purposes to allow the applicant to use more efficient paperless methods of storing data and completing forms and also for training purposes.
- 4.6 The applicant has supplied a breakdown of the cost of the project (Appendix 1) together with quotes.

- 4.7 The applicant has supplied a copy of its accounts to 31st March 2010 which show fixed assets of £1,850 and net current assets of £18,918, including £6,392 cash at bank or in hand. General Funds and Restricted Funds amount to £8913 and £11855 respectively

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	yes	
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	yes	Accounts to 31/03/2010
Assessed by the Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier submitted	yes	
Wider community benefit	yes	
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
Request over £1000:	yes	
Has 50% match funding been met		
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	
Any previous applications	no	
Wholly within Committee area	yes	

4.8 **Quarry Bank Methodist Church**

- 4.9 The Church has recently started a children's football team for boys and girls aged 7- 9 years, who for financial or ability reasons are not able to be part of existing teams in the area.
- 4.10 The group started in January 2011 with 6 members, it now has 18 members and they use the facilities at Mount Pleasant Primary School.
- 4.11 Currently the children do not pay any subscriptions and all the running costs are funded by the Church
- 4.12 The request is for £350 to provide football strips, balls and equipment.

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	no	Part of the Methodist Church
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	no	
Assessed by the Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier submitted	yes	
Wider community benefit	yes	
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
Request over £1000: Has 50% match funding been met	no	
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	
Any previous applications	no	
Wholly within Committee area	yes	

4.13 **15th Stourbridge (Norton St Michael's) Scout Group**

4.14 At the meeting held on 28th June 2010 the applicant was awarded a grant of £5000 as a contribution to the construction of "The Baden Powell Community Centre"

4.15 This project has been delayed and the applicant requests that the Committee extend the time for claiming the grant for a further 6 months

4.16 **Future applications**

4.17 In the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chairman at the first meeting of the Area Committee in a municipal year, the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Leaders of all political groups represented on the Council, be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding within the agreed criteria for Stourbridge Area committee capital allocations .

4.18 Thereafter, the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding within the agreed criteria for Stourbridge Area Committee capital allocations

Finance

5. 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 2010/11 is set out in paragraph 2 of this report.

Law

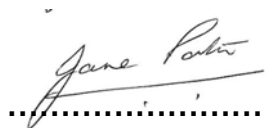
6. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

Equality Impact

7. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications as detailed in paragraph 4.1- 4.12
9. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the time extension as detailed in paragraph 4.13-4.15
10. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider paragraph 4.16-4.18.



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Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer:

Jane Porter

Telephone: 01384 814201

Email: jane.porter@dudley.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Breakdown of Costs for Stourbridge and District Scout Council Application

PC	£699
Laptop	£399
External Hard Drive	£124
Printer	£163
Toner Cartridge	£76
Storage Cabinet	£270
Data Projector	£408
Projection Screen	£355
Software	£100
Total	£2594