

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE: 9TH FEBRUARY 2004

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider two applications for capital funding.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £12,126.77 for 2003/4. The balance reported to the meeting on the 10th December 2003 was £20,726.77 and at the meeting two allocations totalling £3,600 were agreed. Acting under delegated powers I authorised a further allocation of £5,000 after the meeting to the Wollescote St Andrew's Scout Group for a new roof on their premises.
- 2.2. 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.

2.3. A copy of the applications referred to in this report is available to Members on request.

2.4. Application by Mickey's Toddler Group, St Michael's Church Centre, Maynard Avenue, Norton

2.4.1 The Group Leader for Mickey's Toddler Group has submitted an application for a capital allocation of £1,439.00 for the provision of various furniture and furnishings, together with a range of equipment including toys and musical instruments.

2.4.2 The applicant states that an independent toddler group was run from the church centre in Norton for over fifteen years but, unfortunately, in the summer of 2003 this group was closed. However, there is still a continued desire from parents and carers in the local community for a toddlers' service to be reopened and it has been agreed that the St Michael's Christian Pre-school Playgroup should take this service on.

2.4.3 The toddler group will be held each Thursday afternoon between 1.15 and 2.45 pm during the school term at a cost of £1 per child. The charge includes tea/coffee and light refreshments for carers, with squash/milk and fruit and biscuits for the children. All monies raised will be used to resource the group and maintain the high standards of service provided. The group will be run on a voluntary basis by a small team of three, supported by the Pre-school Management Committee.

2.4.4 The start-up costs of this project are £3,000 and the amount of capital allocation applied for is £1,439.00, the balance being provided by St Michael's Church.

2.4.5 The application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 2.2 above.

2.5. Application by Pedmore Scout and Guide Headquarters Management Committee

2.5.1 An application has been submitted by the Pedmore Scout and Guide Headquarters Management Committee, 10 Pedmore Lane, Stourbridge. The application is for work to:-

- Secure the outdoor area and increased safety by enclosing the activity area and screening it from the road.
- Replace the existing out-of-date electrical distribution boards with up-to-date equivalents to ensure safe continuity of meetings and avoid recent problems with blackouts caused by old equipment.

2.5.2 The total cost of this project is £2,848 and the allocation applied for is £2,162 with the balance of £686 to be paid by the Pedmore Sporting Club as a contribution towards the fencing to be paid once the work has been completed.

2.5.3 Members may recall that a capital allocation of £5,000 was awarded to the Pedmore Guides Headquarters in July 2002 for the creation of concrete hard-standing areas and replacement of the existing fire exit ramp with a new access.

2.5.4 The application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 2.2 above.

3.0 PROPOSAL

3.1. It is proposed that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by Mickey's Toddler Group, and Pedmore Scout and Guide Headquarters Management Committee.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1. 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 2003/4 is set out in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

5. LAW

5.1. 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.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1. This report complies fully with the Council's equal opportunities' policies.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1. It recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by Mickey's Toddler Group, and Pedmore Scout and Guide Headquarters Management Committee.

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J. POLYCHRONAKIS
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Application submitted by Mickey's Toddler Group.
2. Application submitted by Pedmore Scout and Guide Headquarters Management Committee.