

**Stourbridge Area Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Capital Allocations**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider 3 applications for a capital allocation.

**Background**

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £28,887.78 for 2007/8.
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) 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);
  - (f) Spending must be in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value; and

- (g) Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.
4. A copy of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

#### **Application by Amblecote Christian Centre**

5. An application has been submitted by the Amblecote Christian Centre, Brettell Lane, Amblecote.
6. One of the main objectives of the Amblecote Christian Centre is to invest in the local community and in relation to this particular application they specifically want to provide local young people with a safe environment to both learn and play.
7. The application is for an allocation of £5,000 towards the cost of repairing the floor of the Youth Lounge at the Centre which is in urgent need of refurbishment. This work would ensure the safety of the hundreds of young people who use the Youth Lounge every week. As the Youth Lounge is situated on the third floor of the building the flooring acts as the ceiling of the main auditorium which increases the urgent need to re-strengthen the floor before more damage occurs. As this repair is of a structural nature, it will count as capital expenditure.
8. The cost of repairing the floor is £10,646 and the balance of funding would be secured by fund raising.
9. The Centre has 800 members of whom about 320 live in Stourbridge.
10. In the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 the Centre made a small loss of £2,308. Whilst the Centre has net assets, these comprise land and buildings and not available cash.
11. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

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

12. An application for an allocation has been submitted by the Wollaston Village Community Association, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston.
13. The Association need to re-cover the roof on their large hall and the main roof of the building at an estimated cost of £4,710 and they are asking the Committee to make an allocation for the full amount.
14. In the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 the Association made a slight surplus of £512 and had net cash of £8,368.
15. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

#### **Application by the Stourbridge Centre**

16. The Stourbridge Centre in Mere Road, Norton, is a part of the Directorate of Adult Community and Housing Services.

17. The Centre is a day centre for individuals with a learning disability and it provides support for service users with a wide range of disabilities. Approximately 112 service users are on the Centre's register of which 80 attend on a daily basis.
18. The Centre need to improve the security of the building by installing security fencing that has been recommended by the local crime prevention officer following ongoing incidents of vandalism. The total cost of this work is estimated to be £25,000. The application is for an allocation of £5,000 with the balance being provided from other resources within the Council.
19. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

### **Finance**

20. 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 2007/8 is set out in paragraph 2 of this report.

### **Law**

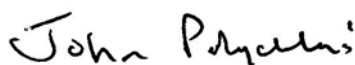
21. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

### **Equality Impact**

22. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity. Both applications involve facilities which are available to children and young people.

### **Recommendation**

23. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by the Amblecote Christian Centre, Wollaston Village Community Association and Stourbridge Centre.



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

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### **List of Background Papers**

1. Application submitted by the Amblecote Christian Centre

2. Application submitted by Wollaston Village Community Association
3. Application by the Stourbridge Centre