

Stourbridge Area Committee - 6th September 2006

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose of Report

1. To consider a number of applications for a capital allocation.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £31,147.29 for 2006/7, subject to the Council approving its capital budget for 2006/07 at its meeting in July 2006.
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. A copy of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

Application by Cats' Protection – Stourbridge and District Branch

5. An application has been submitted by Cats' Protection – Stourbridge and District Branch who are based in Brierley Hill for a capital allocation of £1,462.88 for the purchase of a photocopier. This would enable the organisation to continue to produce their newsletter, posters, information sheets, sponsorship forms, flyers for events, adverts for lost cats etc. Their existing copier is beyond repair.
6. The main aim of Cats' Protection is to rescue stray and unwanted cats and kittens, rehabilitate them and find a home for them. They also aim to inform the public on the care of cats and kittens. They work within the Stourbridge and wider Dudley borough areas. The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2005 indicate that the organisation had cash in hand of around £3,300.
7. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out paragraph 3 above.

Application by Lye Town Football and Social Club

8. Lye Town Football and Social Club, who are based at Stourbridge Road, Lye, have submitted an application for a capital allocation of £5,000 towards the cost of resurfacing the car park at the Club. The total cost of this project is £12,975 (plus VAT) and the Club have submitted an application for a lottery grant for the balance of funding.
9. The Club also states that the project will include improving some ramps for people with disabilities.
10. The balance sheet for the Club as at the 31st May 2005 indicates that their net profit for the year ended 31st May 2005 was £9,704 with net capital of £24,324.
11. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out paragraph 3 above.

Finance

12. 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 2006/7 is set out in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

Law

13. 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

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

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by Cats' Protection and the Lye Town Football and Social Club.

John Polychronakis

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John Polychronakis
Area Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers

1. Application submitted by Cats Protection
2. Application submitted by Lye Town Football and Social Club