
Stourbridge Area Committee – 28th June 2010

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Capital Allocations

Purpose of Report

1. To consider applications for a capital allocation.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £29,875.46 for 2010/11 after deducting a £10,000 contribution to Mary Stevens Gates. The unallocated amount does not include the proposed budget allocation for 10/11 which has yet to be approved.
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.

Application by St Thomas's Parochial Church Council

- 4. An application has been received from St Thomas's Parochial Church Council. The application is for an allocation of £5,865 towards a project costing £11,730. The applicant will be funding the remaining balance. The funding will be used to fund three items. £3,278 is needed to replace the old mechanism for the clocks on the church tower which are now unreliable and results in the time shown on the three faces of the tower being different and inaccurate. They will be replaced with electronic mechanisms that will keep the clocks in time by radio waves. £2,182 is needed to provide an historical information plaque (the building is the only Grade 1 listed building in Stourbridge). £6,270 is needed to replace the windows in the kitchen and the meeting hall.
- 5. The aim of the organisation is to provide a place of worship, spiritual and pastoral support to those who wish to use it. The Church hall provides community space for many local groups including Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers, Guides, Rainbows, Enville st Dramatic Society, Step a side dance group for disabled children, Line dancing group and many others.
- 6. At present the church has a congregation of around 100, but the work proposed is to improve the environment for all residents who visit Stourbridge, and for the community groups who use the facilities.
- 7. The group has submitted a copy of their income and expenditure account for the

year ending December 2009. This shows a £1k increase in unrestricted funds giving a balance of £10k but an overall decrease in total funds of £22k due to other building works.

8. The group has not applied for funding from Stourbridge area committee in the last five years.
9. The application exceeds the £5,000 contribution limit but is 50% match funded.

Application by Amblecote History Society

10. An application has been received from Amblecote History Society . The application is for £939.37 to purchase a projector, wireless PA system and a Dictaphone. The equipment will be used to record oral history, and will provide audio visual equipment for presentations at society evenings and for other organisations such as schools.
11. The aim of the organisation is to preserve, protect and present the history of Amblecote involving the community, and preserving the importance of the industrial history of the Black Country.
12. The organisation has over 350 members from the Stourbridge area.
13. The group has submitted an income and expenditure account for the year 2009. This shows an increase in year of £341 in group funds. The groups funds total £1,068.
14. The group has not applied for funding from Stourbridge area committee in the last five years.

Application by No limits Community Project

15. An application has been received from No Limits Community Project, based at the Coach House in Oldswinford. The application is for £638.71 to purchase various items of gym equipment including a mini trampoline, speed skipping ropes, fitness mats and dumb bells to set up a gym club for young adults who have able autism/aspergers syndrome.
16. The aim of the organisation is to provide advice, information, services, resources, support and recreational activities to young people aged 16 plus who have able autism/aspergers syndrome in order to create opportunities to enhance their lives and aid social inclusion. The group has successfully run a Wednesday morning meeting group since September 2009 and a year long arts/drama programme.
17. The group currently has 32 members
18. The organisation has not submitted any financial accounts but only became a charity in January 2009.
19. The group has not applied for funding from Stourbridge area committee in the last

five years.

20. The application will be 50% match funded from the groups resources.

Application by Oldswinford Cricket Club

21. An application has been received from Oldswinford Cricket Club based at Bigmore playing fields. The application is for £5,000 towards a project costing £11,026, the applicant will fund the remaining costs of the project. The allocation will be used to replace the showers, a new bowling machine, a scarifier for the square, lounge furniture, new windows and doors for the dressing room and replacement of kitchen units.
22. The aim of the organisation to offer the local community an opportunity to participate in cricket. To forge strong links with schools in the area especially Oldswinford Hospital school and also Ridgewood and St Josephs schools to share expertise and facilities.
23. The group currently has 150 members of mixed age, two thirds of which reside in the Stourbridge area.
24. The group has submitted accounts to September 2009. They have traded at a loss of approximately £2,000 for the previous two years. The balance sheet details around £8,000 in bank and building society accounts.
25. The group received £5,000 following an application in August 2006. This was used to update the net practice lane and to replace vandalised doors.
26. The application will be 50% match funded from the groups resources.

Application By Stourbridge & District Chamber of Trade (Stourbridge in Bloom)

27. An application has been received from Stourbridge & District Chamber of Trade (Stourbridge in Bloom) for a capital allocation of £4,800 towards a project costing £9,600. The funding would be used to purchase planters, barrier baskets and an automatic watering system. They intend to raise the remaining funds needed from local businesses.
28. The aim of the organisation is to continue to add floral colour to Stourbridge town centre. To encourage and engage community groups , Schools, Churches, voluntary groups and individuals to work in partnership to develop civic pride in the town and surrounding areas.
29. The group has 50 voluntary members. The group has not submitted a set of accounts.
30. The application does not meet the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 3b point 2 as the organisation was awarded an application of £5,000 at the Area Committee of 16th June 2008, and £5,000 at the Area Committee of 15th June

2009.

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

31. An application has been received from 15th Stourbridge (Norton St Michael's) Scout Group from a capital allocation of £5,000 towards a project costing £197,447. The funding would be used to support the building of a new Scout/Guide headquarters called The Baden-Powell Community Centre. The centre will be available to all local groups to hold meetings and events. To date the group has identified funding of £162,593 from Grants, external Bodies and fund raising efforts. The £5,000 would help secure £100,000 of this funding from Cory Environmental Trust (the group need to find 10% of the grant offered). The group have also applied for £5,000 from the Stevens Trust.
32. The aim of the organisation is to develop young people to achieve their full potential and to become responsible citizens as members of their communities.
33. There are currently 151 Scouts and guides who use the hut. The project will enable other community groups to use the facility. There are a number of supporting letters from other community groups who would want to use the facility.
34. The group has submitted a financial statement and has a current balance of £3,488 available to them.
35. The group received £550 from Stourbridge Area Committee in June 2005 to fund the purchase of camping equipment.

Humaara Project

36. An application from the Humaara Project was considered by Stourbridge Area Committee on 8th March 2010. The consideration of the application was deferred pending a request for further information. This information has been requested in writing. There has been no response from the Humaara Project hence this application will not be considered at this meeting.

Finance

37. 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

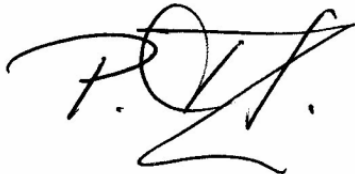
38. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

40. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by St Thomas's Parochial Church Council, Amblecote History Society, No Limits Community Project, and Oldswinford Cricket Club, Stourbridge & District Chamber of Trade (Stourbridge in Bloom) and 15th Stourbridge (Norton St Michael's) Scout Group.



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