
Stourbridge Area Committee – 16 November 2009

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an application for a capital allocation.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £50,087.17 for 2009/10, after deducting a £10,000 contribution towards Mary Steven's gates. The unallocated amount also includes the new allocation for 2009/10 of £50,000.
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 Stourbridge Cricket Club

4. An application has been received from Stourbridge Cricket club who are based at the Memorial Ground Amblecote. The application is for an allocation of £8,000 towards a project costing £10,237.25. The applicant will be holding fund raising events to provide the remaining balance. The funding will be used to improve the health and safety and security of the pavilion. The first part of the project is to rewire the pavilion at a cost of £8,748. The wiring is in excess of forty years old, and failure to do this could result in the closure of the pavilion due to safety issues. The second part of the project is to install a new alarm system at a cost of £1,489 to protect equipment purchased for the junior section and items such as bar stocks, catering equipment and electrical items.
5. The aim of the organisation is to provide and promote cricketing and social opportunities for the people of Stourbridge and the surrounding areas regardless of gender, age, race, religion, disability and sexual orientation. It also aims to extend use of the club and its' facilities by the local community and open up its use to interested parties.
6. At present the club has 366 members, 269 of which reside with Stourbridge.

7. The group has submitted a copy of their income and expenditure account for the year ending September 2008. This shows a shortfall in income of £1,574.19.
8. The group received funding of £1,095.65 from Stourbridge area committee in March 2008 to fund the purchase of equipment for the youth section.
9. This application was previously refused by this committee in January 2009 due to the fact that the club had received a grant within the last three years as detailed in point 8.
10. The application exceeds the £5,000 contribution limit and is not 50% match funded.

Application by Stourbridge Scouts and Guides

11. An application has been received from Stourbridge Scouts and Guides Headquarters Management Committee with regard to The Alderman Tye joint headquarters building. The application is for £2,000 towards a total project cost of £2,750. The applicant will be funding the remaining balance from various fund raising events. The funding will be used to further upgrade works to the electrical installation to comply with current legislation following a survey by Electrical Test (Midlands) Ltd. The Management Committee have funded previous works for repairs and upgrades to comply with health and safety and fire regulations but have insufficient funds to complete the new work.
12. DMBC owns the freehold of the building with the Management Committee looking after the fabric on behalf of the Scouts and Guides Associations.
13. The aim of the organisation is to support the various scout and guide groups in the area by providing them a HQ where they can meet. Scouting and Guiding is part of a worldwide movement that enables young people to fulfill their potential and take an active and responsible role in society.
14. The organization has over 2,000 members approximately 1,200 of which reside within Stourbridge.
15. The group has submitted an income and expenditure account for the year ended March 2009. This shows a shortfall of £964. There was expenditure of £1,379 on repairs within the year.
16. The Group received £5,000 in November 2004 to ensure the kitchen met hygiene and safety standards.
17. the application does not meet the 50% match funding criteria.

Application by Community Transport

18. An application has been received from Community Transport Dudley for £1,000 towards the purchase of a second hand minibus. The service is hampered by its

ageing fleet and high maintenance costs, and in order to sustain the scheme and attract further contract work they need to update their fleet of mini buses. The full cost of the purchase is £5,000 with the balance of funding being sought from each other Area Committee allocations.

19. To date North Dudley Area Committee have not supported the application. Central Dudley Area Committee have to make a contribution of £1,000, subject to the applicant being able to satisfy the Area Liaison Officer that they can fund the outstanding residue in full. Brierley Hill Area Committee have deferred pending further information and Halesowen Area Committee have yet to consider the application.
20. Community Transport is a not for profit organisation that helps vulnerable groups across the borough access low cost transport solutions. It is a preferred DMBC partner in awarding contracts for children and adult services. Groups such as Age Concern, Parkinsons Disease Society, Beacon Blind, Lye Asian Ladies and many others from across all backgrounds currently benefit from the scheme. Dudley is one of several Midland branches of a wider charity operating 11 projects throughout the country.
21. The organization has submitted and audited financial summary for the nationwide community transport organization for the year ending March 2008. There was a surplus of income over expenditure of £140,868.
22. The organisation receives funding of £61,300 per year from adult services to pay the wages of three members of staff.

Finance

23. 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 2009/10 is set out in paragraph 2 of this report.

Law

24. 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

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

Recommendation

26. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by Stourbridge Cricket Club, Stourbridge Scouts and guides and Community

Transport.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Wyatt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Mark Wyatt
Area Liaison Officer

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