

## **Stourbridge Area Committee – 18 January 2010**

### **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 £39,821.54 for 2009/10, after deducting a £10,000 contribution towards Mary Steven's gates.
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.
4. At the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009 it was agreed that the above criteria would be reviewed in the new municipal year.

#### **Application by Green Street Gardens Tenants and Residents Association**

- 5. An application has been received from Green Street Gardens Tenants and Residents Association for £429, for the purchase of a laptop and printer to enable elected members to carry out the administrative duties necessary to run the Tenants and Residents Association.
- 6. The Association is a voluntary one set up in 2004 for the benefit of the local community. The community consists of 150 properties located in two high rise buildings situated in Green Street Stourbridge. The aim of the group is to improve the quality of life for all residents.
- 7. The Association achieves its aims by working on the surrounding gardens, and they have previously had service road pathways tarmaced, carpets fitted throughout the blocks, new electronic door entry system and electronic car park barrier. Regular activities are organised in the community room such as coffee mornings, bingo and games sessions.
- 8. The organization has submitted an audited statement of accounts showing a surplus of £26.73 for year ended October 2009. The group has not applied for funding in the last five years.
- 9. The Association receives £170 from Dudley MBC for running costs. The Association also receives £6,850 Aerial funds but these cannot be utilised for the

purchase of computer equipment due to the criteria attached.

### **Finance**

10. 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**

11. 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**

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

### **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by Green Street Gardens Tenants and Residents Association.



.....  
**Mark Wyatt**  
**Area Liaison Officer**

Contact Officer:

Mark Wyatt

Telephone: 01384 814200

Email: [mark.wyatt@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:mark.wyatt@dudley.gov.uk)