

**Stourbridge Area Committee - 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008**

**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 £4,676.53 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 the Autism Black Country Social Club (ABC) Social Club**

5. The ABC Social Club is based at the Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street, Stourbridge. The ABC Social Club was formerly known as the Dart Social Club and is run entirely by volunteers. The principal aim of the Club is to organise events and activities for people aged 16 or over who have a higher functioning autistic spectrum disorder including Asperger Syndrome, by encouraging the development of friendships and the promotion of independence and social inclusion.
6. Fourteen of its forty-two members live in Stourbridge and the Club meets at the Bonded Warehouse about four times a year.
7. The application is for a capital allocation of £461 for the purchase of a lap top computer and a colour printer to assist with the administration of the Club and its activities.
8. In the 2006/7 year the Club had a deficit of income over expenditure of £469 but carried forward a cash balance of £3,825.
9. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

### **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 2007/8 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 particularly with regard to assisting individuals who are autistic.

### **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the application submitted by the ABC Social Club.

John Polychronakis

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

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**List of Background Papers**

1. Application and supporting e-mail submitted by the ABC Social Club