

Stourbridge Area Committee - 22nd January 2007

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 £8,597.41 for 2006/7.
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);
 - (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 Lye Cricket Club

5. An application has been submitted by Lye Cricket Club who are based at Stourbridge Road, Lye.
6. The Club currently has 90 members, of whom 65 live within Stourbridge.
7. The application is for a capital allocation of £4,787 to purchase a:-
 - Second-hand mower to replace the current mower which has almost finished
 - Grass seed and fertiliser spreader
 - Spiker for the cricket square
 - Loam spreader for the cricket square.
8. The latest Annual Accounts for the Club to the year ended 30th September 2005, indicates that the Club made a surplus in 2004/5 of just over £1,500 with a little over £5,000 in their Bank Account.
9. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Application by the Side by Side Theatre Group

10. An application has been submitted by the Side by Side Theatre Group who are based at Stourbridge College, Longlands Centre, Brook Street, Stourbridge. Their general aim is to give people with learning disabilities the opportunity to explore through theatre and the performing arts a means of self-expression and communication.
11. The Theatre Group is applying for a capital allocation of £1,870 to purchase scanners, and a control unit to create lighting effects which will greatly enhance the theatrical experience of both performers and the audience.
12. The Income and Expenditure Account for the Theatre Group for the period ending 31st August 2006, shows a deficit on the year of £4,682 but a Bank balance of £12,358.
13. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Finance

14. 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

15. 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

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

Recommendation

17. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by Lye Cricket Club and Side by Side Theatre Group..

John Polychronakis

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John Polychronakis
Area Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers

1. Application submitted by Lye Cricket Club
2. Application submitted by Side by Side Theatre Group.