

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE: 13th SEPTEMBER 2004

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider two applications for capital funding.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £51,811.03.

- 2.2. 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); and
- (f) Spending must be in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value.
- (g) Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.

- 2.3. A copy of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

2.4. **Application by The Bethel Chapel.**

- 2.4.1 The Bethel Chapel is situated at Hill Street, Wollescote. In its application the Church states that it tries to serve their community in as many ways as they can and that they hold activities for an all-age spectrum from toddlers to senior citizens.
- 2.4.2 The application submitted by the Chapel is for £5,000 towards the cost of a replacement minibus for the Chapel's community activities. The minibus is used regularly by the toddlers and pre-school groups, the Waterhouse Youth Club and by the Cornerstone Senior Citizens' Club.
- 2.4.3 The total replacement cost of the minibus is £25,000 and the Chapel have already raised £13,192.95.
- 2.4.4 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.
- 2.4.5 If the application were to be approved, the applicants would be advised that no payment would be made until the balance of funding had been secured.

2.5. **Application by Neighbourhood Management**

- 2.5.1 An application has been submitted by the Neighbourhood Manager for Envile Street for funding to supply and fit a sink unit and worktop to the Community rooms adjacent to Beauty Bank Primary School. This would enable residents and their children to participate in basic skills training, I.T. courses, crafts and similar activities. The rooms have previously been used as storage and have no facilities. The residents are currently painting the rooms through a learning programme. A hot water boiler is required together with a commercial cleaning machine to assist with the upkeep of the area and reduce the risk of accidents.
- 2.5.2 The bid is for a total sum of £1,800 comprising:-

Commercial cleaning machine	£1,275.00
Hot water boiler	£ 90.00
Supply and fit sink unit and worktop	<u>£ 435.00</u>
Total:	<u>£1,800.00</u>

- 2.5.3 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.

3.0 **PROPOSAL**

- 3.1. It is proposed that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by The Bethel Chapel and Neighbourhood Management.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1. 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 2004/5 is set out in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

5. LAW

- 5.1. 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.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1. It recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by The Bethel Chapel and Neighbourhood Management.

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J. POLYCHRONAKIS
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

Contact Officer: John Polychronakis 01384 815300 Ext: 5300.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Application submitted by The Bethel Chapel.
2. Application submitted by Neighbourhood Management.