

Stourbridge Area Committee - 18th June 2007

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose of Report

1. To consider 3 applications for a capital allocation.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £42,220.78 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 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 the Green Fingered Gang

5. An application has been submitted by the Green Fingered Gang who are based at The Glebelands, Kempton Way, Norton, Stourbridge.
6. The main aim of the Green Fingered Gang is to “promote and enable residents to live a full and independent life and fulfil their maximum capacity”.
7. The applicant has 100 members of whom 80 live in Stourbridge.
8. The application is for £5,000 for the purchase of a garden studio to be used for life skill projects such as gardening, craft, sewing, literacy, numeracy and basic IT skills. The garden studio would also be used for holding social events. The total cost of providing a garden studio is £5,350 and the balance of £350 has already been raised by the applicant.
9. As at the 29th January 2007 the organisation has a credit balance at the bank of £787.
10. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Application by the Pedmore Cricket Club

11. An application has been submitted by the Pedmore Cricket Club, whom the Area Committee have assisted on a number of previous occasions.
12. The main aim of the cricket club is “to promote the amateur sport of cricket in the Stourbridge Area and to provide social and recreational activities for its members and the local community in a secure and pleasant environment”.
13. The Club offers its facilities to Pedmore School of Technology and its feeder schools i.e. Ham Dingle, Wollescote, Caslon and Rufford Primary Schools.
14. The application is for £5,000 for the purchase of an outfield mower as part of the Club's ground maintenance project. The total cost of the mower is £6,950 and the Club has confirmed that it will find the balance from its own funds.
15. The latest annual accounts for the Club to the year ending November 2006 show that the Club made a small surplus of £310.
16. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Application by The Glasshouse

17. An application has been received from The Glasshouse, Wollaston Road, Amblecote.

18. The Glasshouse Arts Centre is operated by Glasshouse College which is part of the Ruskin Mill Educational Trust. They provide full time education for young people with learning difficulties. The Arts Centre runs a cultural programme throughout the year featuring exhibitions, drama, dance, music and lectures. This is accessed by the students many of whom have experienced cultural deprivation, and it is also well used by the local community. The Arts Centre is currently preparing for the launch of the first International Mask Festival in October which will feature an exhibition of 200 masks from around the world.
19. The application is for an allocation of £4,740 to purchase exhibition cabinets as a resource for the Arts Centre's cultural programme. These would be used for the exhibition of the 200 masks during the International Mask Festival and subsequently they will provide opportunities for the Arts Centre to offer a much needed gallery space for local and regional artists.
20. A copy of the latest accounts for the applicant has been requested and a verbal report on this will be given at the meeting.
21. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Finance

22. 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

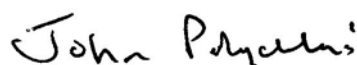
23. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

Equality Impact

24. 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

25. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by the Green Fingert Gang, the Pedmore Cricket Club and The Glasshouse.



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John Polychronakis
Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: John Polychronakis

Telephone: 01384 5300
Email: john.polychronakis@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

1. Application submitted by the Green Fingert Gang
2. Application submitted by Pedmore Cricket Club
3. Application by the Glasshouse