

Stourbridge Area Committee - 3rd September 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 £37357-21 for 2008/9.
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 resource 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 3 yrs

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.
4. A copy of the application referred to in this report is available to Members on request.

Application by Stourbridge Football Club

- 5. An application has been received from Stourbridge Football Club, War Memorial Ground, High Street, Amblecote, for a capital allocation of £1,825 for the replacement of old wooden framed windows and steel framed windows in order to improve the security of the dressing rooms, board room and social club. The Club has suffered break-ins on 3 occasions in the last year.
- 6. The total cost of the project is £3,650 and the balance is being match-funded by the Club.
- 7. The aim of the Club is to provide opportunities for all to take part in and support a football environment. The Club is looking to further enhance its community links and also set up a youth development system. The Club currently has 55 members of whom 40 live in Stourbridge.
- 8. The latest audited accounts for the year ending 31st May 2006 show that the Club had net current assets of £2,649 with total reserves of £7,874.
- 9. In January 2005 the Club was awarded a capital allocation of £5,000 for the refurbishment of the main roof stand. However, this does not fall foul of the 3-year rule set out in paragraph 3(b) above and the application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3.

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 2008/9 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. As mentioned earlier in this report the Club intend to set up a youth development system which will benefit children and young people in Stourbridge.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the application submitted by Stourbridge Football Club.

John Polychronakis

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John Polychronakis
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List of Background Papers

1. Application submitted by Stourbridge Football Club