

## **Stourbridge Area Committee – 19 January 2009**

### **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 £32,683.21 for 2008/09.
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 resources 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 three years.

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.

#### **Application by Stourbridge Cricket Club**

4. An application has been received from Stourbridge Cricket Club, The Memorial Ground, High Street, Amblecote, for a capital allocation of £4,500 to part-fund the cost of fully rewiring the pavilion to allow them to continue and increase the work that they are doing with the local community, in local schools and with voluntary groups. The wiring within the building dates back to the 1960's and is now in such a dangerous state of repair that it will be condemned at the next fire inspection and will lead to the closure of the clubhouse.
5. The total cost of the project is £5,250 with the balance being funded by the Club through fundraising events. At the time of the application the Club was not aware that there is a requirement for any capital application with a value of £1,000 or more to be 50% funded from their own resources or from some other funding. As a result of this, the Club is now actively seeking match funding opportunities and will advise the Committee of the outcomes by the 19 January 2009.
6. The aim of the Club is to provide and promote cricketing and social opportunities for the people of Stourbridge and the surrounding areas regardless of gender, age, race, religion, disability or sexual orientation. To provide, maintain and improve the cricketing and social facilities for use by the local community and interested parties and to provide a memorial for the benefit of both club members and the wider population. The Club currently has 266 members of whom 179 live in Stourbridge.
7. The latest Income and Expenditure account for the year ended September 2008 indicates a surplus of expenditure over income of £1,574. The Club has not supplied a full set of audited accounts but a loss of £861 was also reported for the year to September 2007.

8. Due to the fact that the Club was awarded a capital allocation of £1,095.05 in March 2008 for the part-time main roof stand, this application will not meet the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 3(b).
9. The Club has been contacted regarding their application which does not meet either of the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 3b; although there is a possibility that the Club can find alternative sources of funding to provide the 50% match funding. In response, they have asked that their application is put forward for consideration due to the fact they were not aware of the Area Committees recent guideline changes relating to the approval of capital applications and the wiring in the building is now in a dangerous state of repair.

### **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.

### **Recommendation**

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



.....  
**Jane Porter**

**Area Liaison Officer**

Contact Officer: Jane Porter Telephone: 01384 814200

Email: jane.porter@dudley.gov.uk

### **List of Background Papers:**

1. Application submitted by Stourbridge Cricket Club