
Stourbridge Area Committee - 10th March 2008

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose of Report

1. To consider three applications for a capital allocation.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £ 5047-53 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 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) 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 Stourbridge Cricket Club

5. Stourbridge Cricket Club is situated at the Memorial Ground, High Street, Amblecote. The Club currently has 234 members of whom 149 live in Stourbridge.
6. The Club needs to purchase a range of cricket equipment particularly for its young members. The total cost of the equipment is £2,945-65 and the application is for a capital allocation of £1,095-65 with the balance having already been secured from a number of local charitable organisations.
7. In the year ending September 2007 the Club made a loss of £861-36 but it had net cash of £6,871-15.
8. The Club were awarded a capital allocation of £5,000 in November 2005.
9. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Application by Withymoor Colts Football Club

10. Withymoor Colts FC is a Youth Football Club catering for boys from 6-18 years of age and girls from 10-17 years of age. They also have an open age men's team and an open age women's team. In total the Club runs thirty-eight teams.
11. The Club originally submitted an application for a capital allocation of £2,624-00 for the purchase of various items of equipment. However, following consultation with the Director of Finance I have had to advise the Club that certain items of equipment are too short-life and, therefore, do not qualify as capital expenditure. Accordingly the revised application is in the sum of £919-79 for the purchase of a generator, barbeque, speed ladders, boundary poles, net clips and a mini soccer goal.
12. For the year ending 30th June 2007 the Club made a surplus of £10,262-41.
13. A capital allocation of £2450-30 was awarded to the Club in March 2006.
14. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Application by Friends of Norton Covert

15. The principal aim of the Friends of Norton Covert is to carry out conservation work in Norton Covert and promote its use as a resource for the local community.
16. The Friends have applied for a capital allocation of £2,500-00 for the purchase of hedging plants to complete the second phase of planting behind the new fence (£500-00) and two kissing gates at the Covert Lane and Sandy Lane entrances in order to prevent access by motorcycles (£1,000 each).
17. The latest accounts for the Friends for the year ending 31st March 2007 shows a

deficit of £223-03 with an accumulated fund balance of £305-86.

18. The Friends were awarded a capital allocation of £500-00 in June 2006.
19. This application appears to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 3 above.

Finance

20. 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

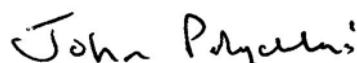
21. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

Equality Impact

22. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

23. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by the Stourbridge Cricket Club, Withymoor Colts Football Club and the Friends of Norton Covert.



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Area Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers

1. Application submitted by Stourbridge Cricket Club.
2. Application submitted by Withymoor Colts Football Club
3. Application submitted by Friends of Norton Covert.