
Stourbridge Area Committee – 27th September

2010 Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose of Report

1. To consider applications for a capital allocation.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of **£60,094.37 for 2010/11**. This amount includes an increase of £5,000 as Stourbridge Radio Group have withdrawn their application approved by the Committee on 15th June 2009. The claim from Stourbridge Scout and Guide headquarters was £315.40 less than the amount approved so this has also been added back to the balance. The unallocated amount includes the £50,000 budget allocation for 10/11 which has been approved.
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.
- (i) Application forms and supporting documents can be viewed by Members on request to the Area Liaison Officer.

APPLICATION DETAILS

4.0 Stourbridge Radio Group

4.1 An application has been received from Stourbridge Radio Group. They have withdrawn the application approved on 15th June 2009 for an outside broadcasting unit and replaced it with this current application due to a change in practical requirement and an inability to source match funding. The application is for £5,000 to fund a "Studio in a Box" which will provide the group with an outside broadcasting facility. The total cost of the project is £7,885 the remaining balance will be funded by the group. The "Studio in a Box" will be used to cover local events and increase the opportunity to interview the public, councillors and MP's as they will no longer have to visit the studio to give an interview.

4.2 The Bridge is a local radio station operating under a community radio licence by local people for the benefit of local people. The group provides local community information and coverage of local community events on a level not provided by other radio stations. The group has 45 voluntary members.

4.3 The group has submitted a copy of their income and expenditure account for year ended 31st March 2010 which shows a surplus of income over expenditure of £1,412.

4.4 Summary: £5000 for an outside broadcasting box

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	yes	
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	no	Detailed spreadsheets provided
Assessed by the Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier submitted	no	Costings list provided
Wider community benefit	yes	
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
Request over £1000: Has 50% match funding been met	no	
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	
Any previous applications	yes	During 2006, Halesowen, Brierley Hill and Stourbridge Area Committees each provided £5,000 towards set up costs
Wholly within Committee area	no	Transmission can also be received in Halesowen and Brierley Hill areas

5.0 Peoples Link Community Group

5.1 An application has been received from Peoples Link Community Group based at the Stourbridge Children's and Family Centre in Forge Road.. The application is for £491 to purchase new goal posts and ground sockets and a white line pitch marker. The equipment will be used to provide football facilities at the Scott's Road play area.

5.2 The general aims of the organisation is to help and improve the facilities at the centre and to raise funds in order to deliver projects and activities for the benefit of the local community.

5.3. The organisation has over 10 voluntary members and helps around 200 people.

5.4 The group has submitted an income and expenditure account for the previous 3 years and is showing a current surplus balance of £1197.18.

5.5 Summary: £491 for new goal posts and sockets at Scott's Green Play Area

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	yes	
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	no	Handwritten balance sheet provided however their constitution states that a bank account will be opened and audited accounts provided annually.
Assessed by Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier submitted	no	
Wider community benefit	yes	Approximately 200 members
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
50% Match funding	n/a	Request is under £1,000
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	
Wholly within Committee area	yes	

6.0 **St Thomas Guides and Scouts**

- 6.1 An application has been received from St Thomas Guides and Scouts, based at St Thomas Church, Stourbridge. The application is for £5,000 to refurbish the youth rooms, including roof repairs, new carpets, tables, chairs and blinds. The total cost of the project is £7,143.00. The remainder of the costs will be covered by a £300 donation from Waitrose and fund raising by the group.
- 6.2 The aim of the group is to provide a full guiding and scouting programme as per the aims of the organisations.
- 6.3 The group currently has 168 members
- 6.4 The organisation has submitted financial accounts for the year ending December 2009. The total surplus available to the group is £3,877.39, this is a total of the balances on all relevant accounts

6.5 Summary £5000 to refurbish youth rooms

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	yes	National Guides and Scouting constitution available on web
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	yes	
Assessed by Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier submitted	no	Outline costs submitted
Wider community benefit	yes	168 members
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
Request for over £1000: Has 50% match funding been met	no	£2143 being sought from other sources
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	Received £5,000 in April 2003
Wholly within Committee area	yes	

7.0 Humaara Project

- 7.1 An initial application for £6,000 from the Humaara Project was received by the Area Liaison Officer dated 13th January, however, some of the requested items were not capital and it was suggested that the organisation re-applies.
- 7.2 A second application for £5,000 was received dated the 27th January and was considered by Stourbridge Area Committee on 8th March, during which the application was deferred pending a request for further information.
- 7.3 Additional information was provided and sent to Members on the 10th June, (see appendix 1 from Maimoona Ramzan)
- 7.4 The additional information, along with details contained in the organisation's constitution, is summarised as follows:
- a) Organisation based at Lye Community Centre and is established to support local Asian women and girls, many of whom have mental health problems.
 - b) Constitution states that the Humaara Project:
 - Is committed to enhancing the quality of life for women and children from South Asia through confidence building, encouragement and supportive networks.
 - Co-ordinates and supports the services provided for the women and children thereby increasing the involvement and levels of engagement within the local community and society as a whole.

c) Key objectives are to:

- Advance the education of the South Asian women, children and young adults.
- Relieve financial hardship through the provision of facilities and services.
- Contribute to the economic development of the area and to assist and promote social and community enterprise

d) Various sessions are held relating to social, recreational and educational skills, exercise classes, health promotion and fitness projects.

e) Primary aim is to support the women and young girls who suffer with low personal esteem and confidence to become more independently minded leading to greater integration into the local community.

f) Project focuses on interaction with other faith and community groups to increase awareness of other cultures, traditions and beliefs.

g) Intention to establish the Project on a more sustainable and viable footing, however, they do need regular funding to support various activities.

h) Equipment requested in order to operate more productively from their base at the Community Centre.

7.5 The £5,000 requested is to purchase the following equipment: Display and presentation boards, toys, books and activity packs, three laptops, a printer and photocopier, two cupboards and four sewing machines with equipment and tools.

7.6. The initial application for £6,000 contained a list of eleven items. The second application for £5,000 contained a list of seven items, five of which were the same as put forward in the initial application. **Although five of the items are the same as stated on the first list there is an overall increase of £960 on the first list costings . It appears that the unit costs of these five items have been pro rata increased to reach the £5000 allocation limit. (See appendices 2 and 3)**

7.7 Summary: £5000 for various items of equipment (see appendices 2 and 3)

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	yes	
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	no	2008/09 income and expenditure sheet provided only. Their constitution states that Annual Statement of Accounts are produced and independently examined.
Assessment by Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier submitted	no	Typed list of requirements submitted
Wider community benefit	yes	125 members
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
Request for over £1000: Has 50% match funding been met	yes	£17,000 secured from other sources to date. £5,000 Comic Relief application awaited.
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	
Wholly within Committee area	yes	
Any previous applications	yes	Application deferred by SAC 8.3.10 pending additional information. Application in 2008 refused as project not considered to be for the benefit of the wider community.

8.0 **Withymoor Colts Football Club**

8.1. An application has been received from Withymoor Colts Football Club who are requesting £420 to purchase five sets of 6' x 4' goalposts.

8.2 The Club is well established with 420 members aged six years and above and have 29 teams playing in various divisions. They are a Chartered Standard Community Club and all managers/coaches have undergone CRB checks and have received Child Protection training and first aid.

8.3 The Club has submitted financial accounts for the year ended June 2010. The Accounts show a deficit of £2,002.84 in the financial year, but the group has funds available of £27,788.57.

8.4. Summary: £420 to purchase 5 sets of small goalposts

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	yes	
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	yes	£27,788.57 in the bank
Assessment by Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier has been supplied	yes	
Wider community benefit	yes	
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
50% Match funding	n/a	Request is under £1,000
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	yes	£985.91 in April 2008
Wholly within Committee area	yes	
Any previous applications	yes	The group received funding from the Area Committee of £2,419.03 in April 2006

9.0 **WOLLESCOTE ST ANDREW'S SCOUT GROUP**

9.1. An application has been received from Wollescote St Andrew's Scout Group who are requesting £895 to construct and equip a rest area and external water supply in the community garden.

9.2 The Group is well supported with 250 members spread over many age ranges and supported by 30 volunteers.

9.3 Their premises are within a deprived area of the Borough and the Scout Group firmly believe that they provide and enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training for young people which they wish to extend and develop.

9.4 The planned extension of their facilities will provide leisure opportunities to all young children as well as members of the local community.

9.5 Significant part of annual receipts is by way of Capital Grants/Donations i.e. £16k in 2008, reduced to £12.1k in 2009. In 2008 they achieved an overall surplus of £4k, but in 2009 a shortfall of £3.77k. At 31st Dec 2009 they had £1.8k in cleared bank deposits. Overall seems to be a very small organisation which is just about able to balance its finances and relies significantly on receiving grants to operate.

9.6 Summary: £895 to construct a rest area and external water supply

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	yes	
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	no	Receipt and Payments Account produced by Group's treasurer
Assessment by Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier has been supplied	yes	
Wider community benefit	yes	
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
50% match funding	n/a	Request is under £1.000
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	
Wholly within Committee area	yes	
Any previous applications	yes	The group received funding from the Area Committee of £5,000 in 2006

Letters of thanks received

10 Members are asked to note that letters of thanks have been received from Oldswinford Cricket Club for the capital allocation award of £5,000 towards the replacement of showers and a new bowling machine, and from Stourbridge District Chamber of Commerce for the £4,800 awarded to assist the Stourbridge in Bloom event.

Finance

11. 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 2010/11 is set out in paragraph 2 of this report.

Law

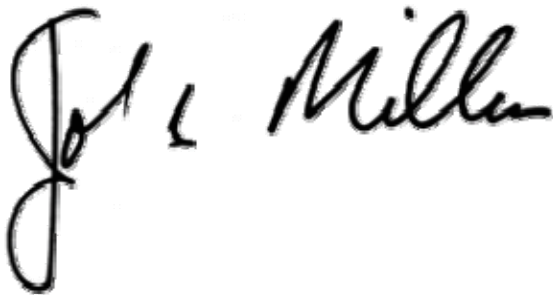
12. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by Stourbridge Radio Group, Peoples Link Community Group, St Thomas Guides and Scouts, the Humaara Project, Withymoor Colts Football Club and Wollescote St Andrew's Scout Group.



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Area Liaison Officer

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Appendix 1

Additional information provided by the Humaara Project

Humaara Project (HP) is an Asian women's community grass-root group that helps supports and develops Asian women's (and young people's) confidence, capacity and skills in order for them to become more active citizens and to take up mainstream opportunities and thus integrate and contribute to a more cohesive society. We are currently based at Lye Community Centre. HP provides a forum for ethnic women and young people in the Lye area to get together and meet on a regular basis. These women and their children are from the minority BME background. Many of the women have mental health problems. We hold social, recreational and awareness raising sessions related to health and social welfare for the women. We have run educational, training and skills development classes for the women e.g. Leadership Courses. We have also held exercise classes for the women. Currently we are holding Reiki (meditation) classes for women to take part to relax and to relieve their worries. Celebration events and cultural festivities are a regular activity for the women to participate in and for professionals to hold workshops to engage the women in a dialogue about services. We have had skills developing events and Health Promotion & Fitness Projects that have been great successes.

Although our project is primarily targeted at Asian women (due to the highest BME population being South Asians in Lye) it nevertheless focuses on how women and young people from different faiths and communities can come together to learn, share and make each other more aware of their cultures, traditions and beliefs. For example this year we have planned Projects where we will be making 'Peace Tapestries' to exhibit which will be made from women from the different communities and faiths to mark International Women's Week. We also will be conducting positive 'dialogue' workshops which will be for all women to attend and take part in and carry out Arts and Crafts through sharing of each others skills and techniques in Arts, Textiles and Crafts.

However we as project organisers want to establish the project on a more sustainable and viable footing. The Project is growing year on year for the past 5 years. However we do need regular funding support to resource these activities. I have made an application for capital grant to the area Committee for equipment and furniture and other important items as we require these in order to set up the base at Lye Community Centre and make the Project viable. We have got two rooms at the Lye community Centre in which we currently do not have the necessary or the required resources or equipment. Thus by allocating the funds to our Project we will be able to acquire the relevant equipment and items as stated and begin operating more productively from our base. I have secured some funding for Revenue costs (£10,000) towards our Project for this financial year and would like the Area Committee to award capital funding to the amount stated on the application (£6,000) so that we can continue and improve the work that we are doing for women and young people in Lye.

Maimoona Ramzan

Humaara Project – Initial list of requested items

Appendix 2

Costs Breakdown: Stourbridge Area Committee Application

item	Cost (approx)
Vehicle: 7/8 Seater people carrier	£2800
3 Laptops	£800
1 printer	£250
Office Desks x3	£280
Telephone + connection	£170
Signs	£250
Photocopier	£200
Cabinets x4	£400
Storage Cupboard x2	£300
Sewing Machines x3 and associated materials & equipment	£450
Mobile Phones x2	£100
Total	£6000

Please note all the items detailed above are required in order to establish and resource our Project work base and its activities.

Costs Breakdown: Stourbridge Area Committee Application

Item (one-off expenditure)	Cost (approx)
Display & Presentation Boards	£990
Toys, Books, Games and Activity packs	£900
3 Laptops (for Office/Administration use)	£950
1 Laser printer	£350
Photocopier	£550
Storage Cupboard x2	£410
Sewing Machines x4 with equipment and tools	£850
Total	£5000

Please note all the Items detailed above are required in order to establish and resource our Project work base and its activities.