
Stourbridge Area Committee – 8th March 2010

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 £39,392.54 for 2009/10, after deducting a £10,000 contribution towards Mary Steven's gates.
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.
4. At the meeting of 16th November 2009 it was agreed that the above criteria would be reviewed in the new municipal year.

Application by Humaara Project

- 5. An application has been received from the Humaara Project for £5,000, for the purchase of various items to equip their project based in Lye. Items requested are display boards, toys, books, games, 3 laptops, a laser printer, a photocopier, 2 storage cupboards and 4 sewing machines with equipment and tools.
- 6. The Organisation aims to provide support and information to disadvantaged and disaffected Asian women and young people in Lye. They provide activities for their personal and social development and improve their access to local and mainstream services, and promote social cohesion
- 7. The Organisation is aiming to raise £27,000 for the project and to date has secured £10,000 revenue funding from Fairshare award, £700 from awards for all and has internal funds available of £6,300. They are awaiting the outcome of a bid to comic relief for £5,000.
- 8. The organization has submitted a statement of accounts showing a surplus of £5,300 for year ended April 2009.
- 9. The Association received £250 from Dudley MBC small grants fund in 2008/09. The Association also received £2,000 from the youth and community service towards the running costs of the summer youth girls group.

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 2009/10 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 applications submitted by The Humaara Project.



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Mark Wyatt
Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Mark Wyatt

Telephone: 01384 814200

Email: mark.wyatt@dudley.gov.uk

