
**Stourbridge Area Committee – 27th June 2011 Report of the Area Liaison Officer
Capital Allocations**

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the criteria used to evaluate applications for a capital allocation.
2. To consider and note applications for a capital allocation.

Background

3. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £29,104.59 for 2011/12. The budget does not include the proposed allocation for 2011/12.
4. The unallocated budget is after £10,000 has been set aside in 2011/12 towards the cost of the repair of the gates at Mary Stevens Park. This was agreed at this meeting on 17th November 2008 and currently the total amount set aside is £40,000.
5. 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:-
 - c. 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
 - d. 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.

- e. Schemes should contribute to the Community Plan and should not conflict with existing Council policy;

- f. 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;
- g. Schemes should not result in any ongoing revenue cost to the Council;
- h. Consideration should be given to schemes which might generate external funding (i.e. using the allocation as match-funding);
- i. Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value; and
- j. Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.
- k. Application forms and supporting documents can be viewed by Members on request to the Area Liaison Officer.

APPLICATIONS

Holy Trinity Amblecote Church Hall

- 6. An application has been received from Holy Trinity Amblecote Church Hall.
- 7. The applicant operates & manages the church hall facility.
- 8. The hall is used by in excess of 500 members of both genders and all ages, 75% of whom are from the Stourbridge, for a variety of events.
- 9. The application is for £2,500 towards the total project costs of £11,856 for the installation of gas central heating for the hall, kitchen and meeting room and the installation of a new suspended ceiling in the hall. Quotes for the work have been supplied.
- 10. The applicant has supplied a copy of its accounts for 2010 which show income of £16,791 and expenditure of £15,511 and a surplus of £1,280. The accounts for 2009 show a deficit of £2,363.

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	yes	
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	no	2010 Statement of income and expenditure unsigned
Assessed by the Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier submitted	yes	
Wider community benefit	yes	
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
Request £1000 or over: Has 50% match funding been met	yes	
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	
Any previous applications	yes	November 2007
Wholly within Committee area	yes	

11. This grant was agreed by the Chairman and the Acting Area Liaison Officer in accordance with the recommendation agreed at this meeting on 8th March 2011.

Ultimate Trampoline Club

12. An application has been received from Ultimate Trampoline Club
13. The applicant aims to introduce people safely to the sport of trampolining and to progress through set levels of proficiency and competitions.
14. The club currently has 30 members ranging in age from 5 years to over 60 years and is based at the Crystal Leisure centre. It owns the trampolines and stores them at the Crystal Leisure Centre and other community groups are also able to use them.
15. The request is for £2799.60 as a contribution to the purchase costs of equipment as detailed below.

Webbing	£4152.00
Overhead Twisting belt	£780.00
Safety soft steps	£667.20
Total	£5599.20

16. The club has applied for further grants but indicate that the balance could be funded from its own resources.
17. The applicant has supplied a copy of its constitution and a summary of its financial position for the year to 1st September 2010, which showed a deficit of £745.50.

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	yes	
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	no	Summary of financial position to 1/9/2010
Assessed by the Council's Accountant	yes	
Proper quote from reputable supplier submitted	yes	
Wider community benefit	yes	
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
Request £1000 or over: Has 50% match funding been met	yes	Applied for other grants or will meet from own resources
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	
Any previous applications	no	
Wholly within Committee area	yes	

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church

18. A letter of thanks has been received from Mr M. J. Pearson on behalf of Mount Pleasant Methodist Church for the grant of £350 awarded at the meeting on 8th March 2011.

Finance

19. 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 2011/12 is set out in paragraph 2 of this report.

Law

20. 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

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

Recommendation

22. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the criteria as detailed in paragraph 5.

23. It is recommended that the Area Committee note the grant awarded to Holy Trinity Amblecote Church Hall as detailed in paragraph 6-11
24. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the application from the Ultimate Trampoline Club as detailed in paragraph 12-17



.....

Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Jane Porter

Telephone: 01384 814201

Email: jane.porter@dudley.gov.uk