
Stourbridge Area Committee – 15th November 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 £43,288.37.
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 Project Gambia

- 4.1 An application has been received from Project Gambia. This is a project run by and for students at Ridgewood High School to experience the life of others in developing country so that they can respect different cultures and appreciate the challenges faced by their peers in other countries.
- 4.2 Each year Year 10 students, staff and members of the local community travel to Gambia for one week. Since 2007 this has involved over 100 staff and students and this has led to some students planning to study African studies at university with a view to working in the developing world. The week includes school visits, spending time with Gambian families, community visits as well as sight seeing. This encourages the student to become a responsible citizen and make a positive contribution to their own community as outlined in the Every Child Matters agenda.
- 4.2 The students have raised money to build a classroom, to sponsor 12 children to attend Newlife Children's Centre and provide laptops, teaching materials and food for the school and village.
- 4.3 The group currently has 65 members all residing in Stourbridge
- 4.4 The group is requesting £1000 to purchase a camcorder and sports equipment

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

5.0 Valley Road Youth Centre

- 5.1 An application has been received from Valley Road Youth Centre based in Providence Street, Lye. The application is for £3,970 to cover the costs associated with the installation of basketball goals and to resurface and mark out the sports hall.
- 5.2 Valley Road Youth Centre is a local authority owned provision sitting within the Youth Service, Directorate of Children's Services.
- 5.3 The Centre provides facilities for young people to engage in positive activities in a safe environment. It offers activities for young people between the ages of 13 and 19 (13 – 25 for young people with disabilities) to develop their personal, health and social skills. The activities are fully inclusive and are open to young people of all abilities, gender, race and sexual orientation. The centre operates open access sessions as well as specialist sessions for young people with disabilities.
- 5.4 The group currently has 124 members
- 5.5 The users pay a subscription fee to attend sessions. This money in turn helps fund activities within the youth club. Annual income generated is approximately £1,000.
- 5.6 The overall cost of the project is £7,211. Background details and associated costs are as follows:

£1,500 provided by the Youth Opportunities Fund for supply and installation of the basket ball goals.

When the company (SES Ltd) came to fit the goals, a problem with the buildings infra structure arose that required an engineer from Dudley

Property Consultancy to carry out a full and comprehensive structural survey, produce drawings and to recommend the necessary steelwork to enable the basketball goals to be securely installed. DPC's fee for this advisory work was £1,741 and was paid for by Youth Services.

Due to the nature of the revised installation and the additional steel work necessary to install the equipment to the standard recommended by DPC, SES Ltd have now quoted £2,220 to carry out the work. In addition, a quote for £1,750 has been received to abrade the existing sports hall floor, vacuum clean, mark out and apply heavy duty water based polyurethane seal. The capital allocation request to Area Committee amounts to £3,970 represented by the £2,220 and the £1,750.

- 5.7 Summary: £3,970 for structural works to enable the basket ball goals to be installed and to resurface and mark out the sports hall.

Considerations		Comments
Fully completed application form	yes	
Constitution provided	no	
Audited accounts/bank statement provided	no	Expenditure is within a wider area youth work budget
Assessed by Council's Accountant	n/a	
Proper quote from reputable suppliers submitted	yes	
Wider community benefit	yes	Approximately 124 members
Will result in any on-going revenue costs	no	
50% Match funding	yes	
Within £5,000 limit	yes	
Has received allocation in the last 3 years.	no	
Wholly within Committee area	yes	

Finance

6. 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

7. 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

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

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the application submitted by project Gambia and reconsider the application of Valley Road Youth Centre.



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Area Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers

Application Form and general information