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**Stourbridge Area Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2012**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Delegated Capital Budget**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the applications for Area Committee capital allocations.

**Background**

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £69304.99 for 2011/12.
3. 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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and currently the total amount set aside is £40,000.
4. 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 over £1,500 applications will only be approved if 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.
  - c. The applicant has not been awarded a capital allocation by the Committee or a grant from the Stevens Trust within the preceding two years.

Except, in either point (b) or (c), in the opinion of the Area Committee, there are special circumstances which would warrant the approval of the application in the public interest.

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

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

## **Applications**

### **Stourbridge Cricket Club**

5. The applicant is a multicultural cricket and social club with 360 members based at the Memorial Ground in High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge. The aim of the organisation is to promote cricketing and social opportunities for the people of Stourbridge and the surrounding areas regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, race, disability or sexual orientation.
6. The applicant has in the past few years :
  - a. Achieved ECB Clubmark accreditation
  - b. Established a Youth Section which now has more than 200 children
  - c. Established a Club/Schools partnership
  - d. Built an all weather practice facility which can be used free of charge by schools, youth groups and voluntary groups in the community.
  - e. Improved the club facilities
7. The request is for a grant of £1000 towards a total project cost of £3205. This will enable the Club to part fund the purchase of the equipment required to establish a Girls Junior Section. The project costs are made up of:
 

a. Coaching and Course Fees	£1750
b. Equipment (Stumps, gloves balls helmets etc)	£1455

Only the equipment could be treated as capital expenditure.
8. A grant of £1500 has already been awarded by SPORTED and £500 from The Margaret Westwood Memorial Charity towards this project.
9. The applicant has submitted accounts for the year to 30th September 2010 which show a small deficit of £234 compared to a surplus in 2008/9 of approximately £4000.
10. The applicant has also submitted a bank account statement which as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 showed a balance of £8472.13.
11. The Capital Allocations Working Group consider that this grant should be approved.

### **Amblecote & Wollaston Cricket Club**

12. Amblecote & Wollaston Cricket Club has submitted an application for a grant of £3447 for concrete bases, equipment and a net enclosure for practice areas. This will enable the Club to progress and individuals to improve their skills.
13. The total cost of the project is £6895 with the applicant providing £750 and other funding being provided or requested from Kinver Cricket Club (£250), with whom the ground is shared, Gwendolynne Wylde Trust (£500) and Ken Wrigley Trust (£1948).
14. The applicant's ground and head quarters are situated at Kinver Community Assn, Legion Drive, Kinver, DY7 6ER. Therefore outside of the Dudley Borough.
15. The applicant would like to play within the borough, but it has not been possible to locate a suitable pitch. The club started playing in Amblecote but had to relocate due to opencast mining. For 21 years it was based at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club but with the success of the Rugby club it had to move to the present ground. The club does use a site in Tiled House Lane, Pensnett for winter net practice.
16. The club has 100 members made up as follows:
  - a. 75 members live in the borough, including 31 members with Stourbridge postcodes (DY8 and DY9).
  - b. 25 members live outside the borough with 4 residing in South Staffs.
17. The group have previously requested a grant from South Staffs but that is based on membership and therefore not eligible because only 4 of the members reside in South Staffs.
18. The applicant has provided a balance sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2011 which shows bank & building society balance of £2928.36.
19. The Capital Allocations Working Group requested more information before making a recommendation concerning:
  - a. The residency of the club members and
  - b. The availability of funding from South Staffs District CouncilThis information has been received and included in the report.

### **Stourbridge U3A (University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age)**

20. Stourbridge U3A was set up in February 2011 to advance the education of older people no longer in full time gainful employment in Stourbridge and its surrounding locality.
21. It currently supports approx 250 people with over 90% residing within the borough.

22. The applicant requests a grant of £1000 being the full cost of the purchase of a digital projector, a whiteboard and a CD system.
23. The Treasurer's report as at 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 shows income of £5076.29, expenditure of £1341.26 and a surplus of £3735.03 being held in a bank account.
24. The Capital Allocations Working Group consider that this grant should be approved.

### **Stourbridge Glassboys Under 8's Football Team**

25. The applicant aims to teach children under 8 years to play and understand football. There are currently 11 members of which over 80% reside in the borough.
26. A grant is requested to replace the team's football clothing which has been used for 3 years and are now too small.
27. The team did have a sponsor for the season to cover costs but due to the current economic climate this has been withdrawn.
28. The request is for £651 towards a total cost of £748
29. The Stourbridge Glassboys was awarded £813.84 by this committee in March 2011 to purchase footballs and equipment for the under 7s team.
30. The applicant has supplied a copy of its constitution and a bank statement showing a balance of £341.87
31. The Capital Allocations Working Group consider that this grant should be approved.

### **Base Foundation CIC**

32. The applicant is a new a not for profit organisation set up in January 2012 to support the local community with a focus on the young and disadvantaged. It is based at Unit 14, Gainsborough Trading Estate, Rufford Rd, Stourbridge.
33. The activities run from a community music, media and performance centre and offer a range of projects, activities and skills focused training.
34. A grant of £4894.80 is requested towards a total project cost of £6892.80. This would be used to purchase:
  - a. 6 iMac computers £3996 and
  - b. study desks and chairs £898.80

This will allow the community a wider access for training, career guidance and other projects. Funding for 2 computers has already been found from the

applicant's own resources.

35. The applicant has submitted a letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012 from Barclays Bank plc confirming that a bank account has been opened , a business plan and a signed constitution.
36. The business plan indicates that income for 2012/13 will be £65k increasing to £150k by 2014/15. Costs will include:
  - a. 2 part time salaries for directors based on £18k-£22k
  - b. training and delivery staff at a commercial rate working with volunteers
  - c. book keeping, accountancy and legal services
37. The application was received after the Capital Allocations Working Group had met and it has not considered this application.

### **Finance**

38. 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**

39. 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**

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

### **Recommendation**

41. It is recommended that the Committee consider the applications as detailed in the report.



**Area Liaison Officer**

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### **List of Background Papers**

Application Forms

Constitution, Accounts, Bank Statement & Quotes

Letters confirming award of grant from SPORTED and the application to charity re

Stourbridge Cricket Club