

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE: 21st MARCH 2005

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider three applications for capital funding.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £9771.21.

2.2. 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 departments, 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) Schemes should contribute to the Community Plan and should not conflict with existing Council policy;
- (c) 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;
- (d) Schemes should not result in any ongoing revenue cost to the Council;
- (e) Consideration should be given to schemes which might generate external funding (i.e. using the allocation as match-funding); and
- (f) Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value.
- (g) Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.

2.3. A copy of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

2.4. Application by The 16th Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Unit

2.4.1 The Scout Unit is based at Kempton Way, Norton.

2.4.2 The general aims of the Scout Unit are to prepare young people of both sexes, with an age range of 5 – 25, to live a better and more fulfilling life and to take their place with a sense of responsibility in society. Current membership is 176.

2.4.3 The Scout Unit propose to erect a purpose-built brick building as a Scout and Guide Headquarters, which could also be used as a community centre. The total cost of the project is £181,200.75 plus VAT and the application is for £5,000. Members may recall that at the last meeting of the Committee on the 31st January 2005 a grant of £5,000 was awarded from the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust.

2.4.4 The annual accounts submitted by the applicant to the 31st March 2004 show a slight deficit for the year in bank accounts and cash but there is a separate bank account specifically for the new hut which at the 12th December 2004 was showing funds of £19,103.51. The applicant is also applying for lottery funding.

2.4.5 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above but, if the application is approved, the allocation will not be paid until we are satisfied that the balance of funding has been secured.

2.5. Application by New Farm Estate Neighbourhood Watch

2.5.1 The New Farm Estate Neighbourhood Watch is based at the Sunshine Club, Crowle Drive, Stourbridge.

2.5.2 The association is applying for a capital allocation of £300 to purchase a combined printer/scanner which will enable the association to produce newsletters and other publications to local residents more efficiently.

2.5.3 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.

2.6 Application by Oldswinford St Mary's Cricket Club

2.6.1 The Oldswinford St Mary's Cricket Club is based at the Bigmoor Playing Fields, Albermarle Road, Stourbridge.

2.6.2 The club is long-established with very close community ties, including schools.

2.6.3 The present club facilities are rather restricted as far as changing rooms, toilets, etc are concerned. Accordingly, the club is planning to build an

extension to improve the facilities and enable more use by schools, particularly with their all-weather pitch. The project will incorporate disabled toilets and improved facilities for women and give a greater covered accommodation to meet the additional requirements.

2.6.4 The total cost of the project is £9,100 and the application is for £4,100. The work will be in distinct phases. The Club propose to use the capital allocation for Phase 1 and they will apply to other sources of funding for Phase 2.

2.6.5 This application appears to satisfy the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.

3.0 PROPOSAL

3.1. It is proposed that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by the 16th Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Unit, the New Farm Estate Neighbourhood Watch and the Oldswinford At Mary's Cricket Club.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1. 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 2004/5 is set out in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

5. LAW

5.1. 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.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by the 16th Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Unit, the New Farm Estate Neighbourhood Watch and the Oldswinford At Mary's Cricket Club.

John Polychronakis

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J. POLYCHRONAKIS
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Application submitted by The 16th Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Unit
2. Application submitted by The New Farm Estate Neighbourhood Watch
3. Application submitted by Oldswinford St Mary's Cricket Club