

Halesowen Area Committee – 22nd March 2006

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.

Background

2. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in the Appendix. The Area Committee has previously agreed that contributions from the budget will be limited to £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. A copy of the application referred to in this report is available to Members on request.

3. **St. Margaret's Church, Hasbury**

A request has been received from St. Margaret's Church, Hasbury for funding towards the provision of a disabled toilet, disabled access and improved community facilities in the Church, to encourage greater community use of the facilities and satisfy Disability Discrimination Act requirements. The total cost of the scheme is approximately £40,000, and the Church have over £20,000 currently available for the scheme.

Councillor Jackson and I visited the Church recently to discuss the request. We were told that the local school makes extensive use of the Church and there is a growing demand for local community use. We asked the applicants for further details of the proposed community use, which at the time of writing the report, had not been received. Nevertheless, this is a request which satisfies the funding criteria and seems worthy of the Committee's support. I am, therefore, recommending the approval of a grant of up to £5,000, subject to the receipt of further written details of the proposed community use and confirmation that the scheme can be fully funded.

4. **2nd Cradley (St. Peters) Scouts**

A request has been received from the Group for further funding to renovate the interior of their building, including provision of disabled toilets and cooking facilities which would benefit the community. The total cost of the scheme will amount to some £30,000.

Funding of £2,000 was approved by this Committee in June 2005 for security fencing around the site as it had been subject to extensive vandal attack.

Having consulted appropriate colleagues, this is a request which seems worthy of the Committee's support and I am recommending the approval of a grant of £5,000.

5. Halesowen Youth Centre

A request for funding the provision of drama and dance facilities at the Youth Centre was handed in at the last meeting of the Area Committee. I have discussed this with the Assistant Director of Community Education and Development and the Youth Worker at the Centre, who both support the bid. Youth Workers are currently assisting the Young People Group to work up the proposals in more detail, particularly to ensure that the proposed scheme fits in well with other planned developments for the Centre and has the support of its Centre users.

I am, therefore, recommending the Committee earmarks up to £5,000 for this project, and authorises me, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body to approve a grant when further details are received.

6. Cradley Community Centre

A request was received from the Cradley Community Centre for funding towards the purchase of a preparation table in the kitchen area at the Centre. I have visited the Centre and have agreed to order and pay for the workbench directly and have it delivered assembled to the Centre. The quotation we have received amounts to just under £300.00

I have, therefore, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, approved them a grant of £300.00.

Finance

7. The grant referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.

Law

8. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
9. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to, or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

10. This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.
11. Sentence re. Children and Young People???

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the Area Committee:-

- (a) Approves a grant of up to £5,000 for St. Margaret's Church, Hasbury, towards the provision of a disabled toilet, disabled access and improved community facilities in the Church, subject to the receipt of further written details of the proposed community use and confirmation that the scheme can be fully funded;
- (b) Approves a grant of £5,000 for 2nd Cradley (St. Peters) Scouts, towards the renovation of the interior of the building, including provision of disabled toilets and cooking facilities;
- (c) Earmarks up to £5,000 for the Halesowen Youth Centre, for funding the provision of drama and dance facilities at the Centre and authorises me, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body to approve a grant when further details are received;
- (d) Notes my action, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body, in approving a grant of £300.00 to the Cradley Community Centre, for the provision of a preparation table in the kitchen area at the Centre.



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Area Liaison Officer

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List of Background papers
Requests for funding

CRITERIA FOR CAPITAL BIDS/ALLOCATIONS

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.