

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2004

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

DELEGATED CAPITAL BUDGET

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Halesowen Parish Church

- 2.1.1 A request has been received from the Parish Church of St. John The Baptist, Halesowen for a contribution towards the cost of stonework repair and conservation to the south side of the Church building, which is the most visible to the public. Areas there are badly weathered and crumbling away and remedial work is urgently required. There are also roof repairs needed.
- 2.1.2 The total cost of the work is estimated to be about £190,000 and the Church has applied to English Heritage for a grant, but will be expected to raise part of the total costs from other sources including fund raising, appeals and other grants.
- 2.1.3 The Area Committee approved an allocation of £5,000 towards the last phase of restoration work at the Church in the last financial year. Given the historical and landmark significance of the Church and the important role it plays in the community of Halesowen, I am recommending that the Committee approves an allocation of £5,000 towards the costs of this work.

2.2 Community Area in Snowdon Grove, Halesowen

- 2.2.1 Councillor Ken Turner has submitted an outline request for support towards the cost of providing a childrens' play area with picnic and meeting area in Snowdon Grove, Halesowen. The total cost of the scheme is estimated to be £13,000. Touchstone Developments have agreed to support the project and detailed designs and costings are being prepared.
- 2.2.2 This is a project that meets the criteria for Area Committee funding and therefore seems worthy of support. I therefore recommend that the Area Committee supports the project in principle, and subject to the submission of detailed designs and costings, authorises the Lead Officer in consultation with the Chairman to agree a grant of up to £5,000.

2.3 The New Hall Project

- 2.3.1 In accordance with the delegations approved by the Committee, I have in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Richard Body, agreed an allocation of £500 to The New Hall Project, as a contribution towards the replacement costs of items vandalised at the Centre over the Easter holidays.

- 2.4 I have also received, via Councillor Ken Turner, a request for further funding for the community facilities at Caslon School. Following discussions with the Chairman, I have indicated, in principle, support for the further development of facilities at the School, but have requested further details before I can make any recommendation to the Committee.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Area Committee:-

- (a) approves a grant of £5,000 towards the stonework repair and conservation work to the south side of Halesowen Parish Church;
- (b) approves, in principle, the request for funding for a proposed community area in Snowdon Grove, Halesowen and authorises the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, to agree a grant of up to £5,000;
- (c) notes the actions of the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Richard Body, in approving a grant of £500 The New Hall Project, as a contribution towards the replacement costs of items vandalised over the Easter holidays.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1 The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.

5.0 LAW

- 5.1 The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
- 5.2 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.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee approves the proposals set out in Section 4 of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Requests for funding.

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Mike S Williams
Area Liaison Officer

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