

Halesowen Area Committee – 21st March 2012

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To recommend grants from the Committee's Capital Budget Allocation and associated matters.

Background

2. I have provided below details of the current financial position on uncommitted/unspent capital budget. Prior to the consideration of bids referred to in this report, the table below summarises that position:-

	£
Total allocations 2000/01 to 2010/11	600,000
Less:	
- Spent to date	(542,470)
- Allocated to bidders, but not yet spent (see Appendix 1)	(21,055)
- Earmarked for Town Centre enhancements	(17,000)
- Earmarked for Empty Shops Grant initiative Cradley/Windmill Hill, Shell Corner and the Stag) (£790 each)	(2,370)
Available to spend on new bids/earmarks	17,105

3. Appendix 1 sets out details of unspent allocations. These allocations have all been made within the last six months and therefore I am not recommending that any of these sums be made available for reallocation. The allocations in Appendix 1 include two grants made under delegated powers in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson.
 - Access in Dudley

An application was received from the group for capital funding for up to £229.96 to enable the purchase of two digital cameras to ensure they can continue to carry out access audits. The organisation work towards improving access for disabled people, people with mobility scooters and people with pushchairs etc making the community accessible to all.
 - Hawne Recreation Ground

An application was received from the organisation for capital funding for up to £1,010 to enable two metal litter bins to be installed in the car park area of the grounds. The park attracts a lot of visitors especially at weekends with visiting football teams etc... There is currently nowhere to deposit rubbish, thus this is left on the car park.
4. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 2. 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 applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.
5. Hasbury & Cradley Rotary Club

An application has been received from the club for capital funding of up to £1,900, which is the total cost for purchasing a marquee. The organisation run the 'Victorian Fayre' in the town centre and have always used a marquee supplied by Dudley MBC. This is no longer fit for purpose. The new marquee will be made available to other charitable organisations to use.
6. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £1,900 should be approved.*

7. Friends of the Leasowes

An application has been received from the group for capital funding for up to £5,000 towards the cost of renovating the kitchen area. The estimated total cost of the renovation is £8,454. The group represent the needs of park users, organising events and activities for the local community. The new kitchen/café will provide a valuable facility and attract people to the park. The original request for this particular renovation work was agreed in 2005/06, but following a routine inspection it was found that the room was not in sound condition for the works to go ahead. The funding was not used and thus elapsed.

8. Members may recall funding agreed to establish reed beds alongside the conservation area on Priory Pool for the benefit of water fowl, and to prevent further erosion of the banks totalling £5,000 which was approved in 2007/08.

9. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*

10. Tuesday Bowls

An application has been received from the group for capital funding for up to £513.64 to enable them to purchase an additional bowling mat. This is the total cost. The group meet each Tuesday and when the group is in excess of sixteen they have to share. The mat will also be used by the Wednesday bowls group.

11. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £513.64 should be approved.*

12. Halesowen/Dudley Yemeni Community Association

An application has been received from the association for capital funding of up to £1,379.98 to enable them to purchase two personal computers. This is the total cost. These will replace the old PC's that are not capable of accessing certain information such as e-mails and particular software. The association aims to improve the quality of life to all by educational, social and cultural activities.

13. Members may recall funding agreed to install a PA System in 2007/08 of £1,064, renovation to building internally and externally in 2008/09 of £6,000 and the purchase of a minibus with disabled access in 2010/11 of £3,500.

14. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £1,379.98 should be approved.*
15. Rage Arts
An application has been received from the organisation for capital funding for up to £299.10 to enable them to purchase an amplifier to be used on their Christmas tour to schools and community venues and other projects requiring sound equipment. This is the total cost. They are looking to set up a community arts and media centre where people will be able to come and work with professionals to create their own productions and gain skills to help them in life & their careers.
16. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £299.10 should be approved.*
17. Halesowen Golf Club
At the meeting on 9th November 2011, the Committee considered an application for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards a cost of £9,834 for golfing equipment, uniform clothing, buggies, bags, IT equipment and software for advanced tutorial exercise and astroturf mat. The equipment would be used in activities targeted at school children, youths, young adults, disabled and the disadvantaged. The Committee resolved that this matter be deferred and that the Golf Club be requested to attend the meeting on 21st March 2012 to give a presentation on their work.
18. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*
19. Lutley Community Association
An application has been received from the organisation for capital funding for up to £2,000 towards the total cost of £2,168.06 for installing CCTV Camera, monitors and all other associated equipment. The association assist groups of all ages and ethnicity including parents and toddlers, brownies, educational classes, art groups.
20. Members may recall funding agreed to install lighting in 2006/07 of £1,990 and Health & Safety works in 2009/10 of £3,913.
21. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*

Finance

22. The total available to spend on new bids in 2011/12 is currently £17,105. If all of the recommendations in this report are approved then a balance of £1,012 will remain.

	£	Ward
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>	<u>Up to:</u>	
Hasbury & Cradley Rotary Club	1,900	All Wards
Friends of the Leasowes	5,000	Halesowen South
Tuesday Bowls	514	Halesowen South
Halesowen/Dudley Yemeni Community Association	1,380	Belle Vale
Rage Arts	299	Halesowen North
Halesowen Golf Club	5,000	Halesowen South
Lutley Community Association	2,000	Hayley Green & Cradley South
Total	16,093	

Law

23. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
24. 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

25. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendations

26. It is proposed that Area Committee:-

- (a) considers authorising a grant of up to £1,900, which is the total cost for purchasing a marquee for Hasbury & Cradley Rotary Club;
- (b) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 towards the renovation of a kitchen area for Friend of Leasowes;
- (c) considers authorising a grant of up to £514, which is the total cost of a bowling mat for Tuesday Bowls;
- (d) considers authorising a grant of up to £1,380, which is the total cost of two PC's for Halesowen/Dudley Yemeni Community Association;
- (e) considers authorising a grant of up to £299, which is the total cost for purchasing an amplifier for Rage Arts;
- (f) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 towards the cost of golfing equipment for Halesowen Golf Club.
- (g) considers authorising a grant of up to £2,000 towards the cost of installing CCTV cameras and associated equipment for Lutley Community Association.



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Iain Newman –

Area Liaison Officer

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Appendix 1

Halesowen Area Committee – Unspent Allocations

Recipient	For	Date of Committee Approval	Latest Deadline for Claim	Amount Allocated	Amount not yet Spent
Women's Awareness Association	ICT equipment, sewing equipment, toys and electronic dictionaries.	9th November 2011	9 th May 2012	5,000.00	306.50
Halas Homes	Chairs, tables and other furniture, computers for service users to learn and use, and also specialist equipment for disabled people including an electric hoist.	9th November 2011	9 th May 2012	5,000.00	8.05
Halesowen Chamber of Trade	Replacing the Christmas lights in the town centre.	9th November 2011	9 th May 2012	3,664.00	0.00
Halas Team Ministry	Replacing lead stolen from the Church roof.	9th November 2011	9 th May 2012	5,000.00	5,000.00
Age Concern	Re-decoration, carpets and furniture.	9th November 2011	9 th May 2012	5,000.00	500.00
The Hub	Mobile football plus trailer.	9th November 2011	9 th May 2012	5,000.00	5,000.00
Howley Grange Scout Group	Replacing old parquet flooring.	9th November 2011	9 th May 2012	4,000.00	4,000.00
Halesowen in Bloom	Planters, hanging baskets and watering equipment for the town.	9th November 2011	9 th May 2012	5,000.00	5,000.00
Access in Dudley	Two digital cameras.	Delegated Powers 3 rd January 2012	3 rd July 2012	229.96	229.96
Hawne Recreation Ground	Two metal litter bins.	Delegated Powers 7 th February 2012	7 th August 2012	1,010.00	1,010.00
Grand Total				38,903.96	21,054.51

Criteria for Bids/Allocations

- a. The allocation 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 and Council Plans 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 on-going revenue costs.
- e. Consideration should be given to schemes that might generate external funding (i.e. using these budgets as match funding).
- f. Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value.
- g. Approved allocation must normally be claimed within six months.