

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE – 30TH MARCH 2005

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 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.

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

2.3 Cradley Karate and Ju Jutsu Club

- 2.3.1 The applicant is a none profit making club, with around 40 members, ranging from age five to seventy, based at the Cradley Community Centre, Colley Lane.
- 2.3.2 They presently have matting that covers around one third of the total floor area and are requesting funding to be able to cover around half of the floor area, equating to an additional 20 mats.
- 2.3.3 Having consulted with colleagues on this matter, I have, in consultation with the Chairman, approved a grant of £411.00, subject to the Club obtaining a Sport and Exercise Accreditation Licence (SEAL) accreditation by the Council, (to ensure appropriate qualifications, insurance and CRB clearance are in place) and that child protection training is attended by representatives from the Club.

2.4 Beech Tree Miners Welfare Institute

- 2.4.1 The applicant is a registered charity, No. 523194. The institute is in Wollescote and is soon to celebrate its 50th year.
- 2.4.2 The aims of the organisation are to promote and improve the health and social well being of people. They also provide a base for other local organisations ranging from the local pigeon fanciers club and local children and pensioners groups. Current membership is 800 people mainly from the Lye & Wollescote area.
- 2.4.3 The Committee are requested to consider a retrospective application for a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of providing disabled facilities including toilets and access. Two copy invoices dated October 2004 for work on the toilets have been submitted totalling £17,550, and these have been paid by the institute, by way of a loan to be repaid over a number of years or sooner if the grant applications are successful.
- 2.4.4 The applicant has also submitted an application for funds from the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust and this is due for consideration at the Stourbridge Area Committee on 21st March 2005. The results of this will be reported verbally.

2.5 Shell Corner Neighbourhood Shop – 300 Long Lane, Halesowen

- 2.5.1 A request has been received from the Neighbourhood Manager, for financial assistance to refurbish the above community facility, to include disabled toilet facilities to comply with the Disabled Discrimination Act.
- 2.5.2 The main aim of the Community Shop will be to provide a range of partnership discreet and accredited training and development opportunities for community voluntary and established organisations in Shell Corner and surrounding areas.
- 2.5.3 The second aim will be to develop the Shell Corner Neighbourhood Shop management, staff and volunteers as the core group supporting the area partnership so that it can be a base for lobbying for extra resources to the area.

2.5.4 The total capital cost of the project is estimated to be £27,000, of which £7,500 has already been secured from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and other sources. The estimated annual revenue costs are approximately £25,000. Applications have also been made to the Princes Youth Business Trust, DOSTI and other trusts.

2.5.5 This is a scheme worthy of further consideration by the Committee and, at this stage, you may want to earmark (say) £5,000 towards the scheme (subject to the Shell Corner Partnership raising other funds to complete the capital works and providing satisfactory assurances that the ongoing revenue costs can be met (in accordance with the principles for Area Committee capital support)), and ask for a further report before any final decisions are made.

2.6 Earls High Playing Fields

2.6.1 The Earls High Playing Fields Working Group have identified as a priority the need to:-

- (a) control access to the car park at the site as a deterrent to anti-social activities; and
- (b) prevent unauthorised parking from taking place on the fields.

2.6.2 The cost of these works, to include a steel car park barrier, bollards, a low ditch and bank and reinstatement to grass has been estimated at £3,900. There are no additional maintenance costs associated with this proposal, and savings may be achieved by the measures which will act as a deterrent to fly tipping.

2.6.2 It has not been possible to identify any other funding source for this work and I am recommending that an allocation of up to £4,000 be agreed.

3.0 PROPOSALS

3.1 It is proposed that the Area Committee:-

- (a) notes the actions of the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body, in approving a grant of £411 to the Cradley Karate and Ju Jutis Club, for additional floor mats for use at the Cradley Community Centre;
- (b) considers the request from the Beech Tree Miners Welfare Institute, for retrospective funding of £5,000 for the building of dedicated disabled facilities at the Institute;
- (c) agrees to earmark up to £5,000 towards the capital cost of developing the Shell Corner Neighbourhood Shop, subject to the Partnership raising other capital funds and giving reassurances that the ongoing revenue costs can be met, and to ask for a further report before any final decisions are made;

- (d) approves an allocation of up to £4,000 for works to be carried out at the Earls High Playing Fields to deter anti-social activities and prevent unauthorised parking on the fields.

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 3 of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Requests for funding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Williams', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Williams
Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Mike Williams - Ext 4800