

**North Dudley Area Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Delegated Capital Budget**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.
2. To confirm that subject to (3) below, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
3. To confirm that, in the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chair at the first meeting of the Area Committee in a municipal year, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Leaders of all political groups represented on the Council, be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.

**Background**

4. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in the Appendix. A copy of the applications referred to in this report is available to Members on request. The following applications have been received.

5. Upper Gornal Pensioners Club

An application has been received from Upper Gornal Pensioner Club in the sum of £3,000 towards the cost of purchasing a freezer, a bingo machine, various kitchen / canteen items and a number of running costs.

The Area Liaison Officer has written to the Pensioners Club asking them to resubmit their application as a number of the items listed were of a revenue nature.

6. Gornal Community Fun Day Planning Committee

An application in the sum of £420 was received from Gornal Community Fun Day Planning Committee to purchase BBQ's and Gazebos for the fun day and the use by the voluntary organisations who are members of the planning committee.

The Area Liaison Officer approved the application under delegated powers.

7. Lower Gornal Youth Centre

An application in the sum of £7,050 was received from Lower Gornal Youth Centre for refurbishment of the coffee bar and upgrading of the seating area at the Lower Gornal Youth Centre. The application was of an urgent nature as the labour could be carried out free of charge if the work was carried out before June 2007.

The Area Liaison Officer approved the application under delegated powers.

**Finance**

8. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.
9. The balance available for allocation in 2007/08 is £116,139 including the allocation for 2007/08 of £40,000.
10. The following table indicates the allocations approved to-date, and the budget remaining.

	Coseley East Ward	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward	Gornal Ward	Sedgley Ward	Total
Balance available from 2006/07	<b><u>£16,204</u></b>	<b><u>£31,251</u></b>	<b><u>£27,375</u></b>	<b><u>£1,309</u></b>	<b><u>£76,139</u></b>
New allocation for 2007/08	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2007/08	£0	£0	£7,470	£0	£7,470
Balance unallocated	<b><u>£26,204</u></b>	<b><u>£41,251</u></b>	<b><u>£29,905</u></b>	<b><u>£11,309</u></b>	<b><u>£108,669</u></b>

11. An approved capital budget of £116,139 is available for 2007/08. Allocations totalling £7,470 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £108,669 to be allocated.

### **Law**

12. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
13. 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**

14. This report takes account of the Council's Policies on equality and diversity.

### **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 3 to be approved.



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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: John Freeman

## Appendix

### **CRITERIA FOR CAPITAL BIDS/ALLOCATIONS**

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.