

Halesowen Area Committee – 9th November 2011

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	(520,121)
- Allocated to bidders, but not yet spent (see Appendix 2)	(5,564)
- 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)
Add back:	
- Available from a review of unspent allocations (see Appendix 2)	2,564
Available to spend on new bids/earmarks	57,509

3. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. 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.
4. Appendix 2 sets out details of unspent allocations, as follows:-
- There is one grant for Leasowes Community College which is unspent at the time of writing, but is likely to be spent by the time the Committee meets and a verbal update will be given.
 - There is a grant for Tanhouse Tenants and Residents Association that has been claimed, leaving a small balance un-required, and it is recommended that the balance be made available to be reallocated.
 - There is a grant for Cradley Town Football club that has been unclaimed since 12th November 2008, and it is recommended that the balance be made available to be reallocated.

5. Women's Awareness Association

At the meeting on 9th March 2011 a grant of up to £5000 was requested by the Women's Awareness Association in respect of ICT equipment, sewing equipment, toys and electronic dictionaries. The application was refused at that time, but the Committee invited the group to give a presentation on the work they do for the community. The group has submitted a new application for the same funding amount which now includes tables and chairs. A presentation will be made to the Committee on 9th November.

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

7. Loaves 'N' Fishes

Halesowen Area Committee on 6th July 2011 considered an application from this group for capital funding of up to £3,000 for the total cost of ICT equipment. The group helps to relieve poverty by providing furniture and other household items including clothes, toys and food. A previous grant of £2,500 was made in 2009/10 towards a replacement delivery van.

Approval of the grant was deferred pending further information as to whether funding had also been sought from Sandwell Council. The group have written back stating that they had not sought funding from Sandwell Council for this specific equipment, but have received funding of £13,100 in the last year towards rent/running costs.

8. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £3,000 should be approved.*
9. Halas Homes
An application has been received from the charity for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards a total cost of £12,139.62 for chairs, tables and other furniture, computers for service users to learn and use, and also specialist equipment for disabled people including an electric hoist. The charity provides high quality residential care and supported living for adults with a learning disability from school leaving age onwards, which enables adults to take control of their lives and enables them to take part in activities and ensure that maximum opportunities to participate in community life are available to them.
10. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*
11. Halesowen Chamber of Trade.
An application has been received from the group for capital funding for up to £3,664 for the total cost of replacing the Christmas lights in the town centre. The main aims of the organisation are to protect the interests of the businesses of Halesowen and to promote the town centre environment to encourage visitors to the town.
12. Members may recall grants totalling £19,500 have previously been approved between 2003/4 and 2009/10 for the purchase of Christmas lights.
13. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £3,664 should be approved.*

14. Halas Team Ministry (St John the Baptist)

An application has been received from the group for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards the cost of £43-£45,000 to replace lead stolen from the Church roof, the cost of which cannot be met from the Church's insurers. The congregation are working towards making the listed building more user friendly. The Church attracts groups such as Scouts, Guides, British Legion, Schools, Masons etc.

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

16. Stourbridge and Halesowen Age Concern

An application has been received from the organisation for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards the total cost of £9,756 for re-decoration, carpets and furniture at Green Lane. The organisation provide day and social care for people of advanced years. Also, the provision of community, health, benefit, advice and entertainment for its members.

17. Members may recall a grant of £5,000 approved in 2007/08 towards the cost of a minibus.

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

19. The Hub (based at Zion Christian Centre)

An application has been received from the organisation for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards the total cost of £15,700 for the purchase of a mobile football plus trailer. Being mobile it can be transported to other youth clubs, schools and event across the Borough. The Centre is a Youth Club for age 10 – 18 year olds. It opens each Friday evening and during school holidays. The Hub provides positive activities using creative arts, music and vocals, drama and dance and sports to engage young people. It also runs sessions on topics such as drugs, crime, relationships, staying safe and health lifestyle.

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

Finance

21. The total available to spend on new bids in 2011/12 is currently £57,509. If all of the recommendations in this report are approved then a balance of £25,845 for the remainder of 2011/12 will be available.

	£	Ward
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>	<u>Up to:</u>	
Women's Awareness Association	5,000	Belle Vale
Loaves 'N' Fishes	3,000	All Wards
Halas Homes	5,000	Belle Vale
Halesowen Chamber of Trade	3,664	Halesowen South
Halas Team Ministry	5,000	Belle Vale
Age Concern	5,000	All Wards
The Hub	5,000	Halesowen South
Total	31,664	

Law

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

24. 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

25. It is proposed that Area Committee:-

- (a) approves that unspent allocations of £2,500 and £64.03 be made available to be reallocated as set out in paragraph 4 and Appendix 2;
- (b) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for the Women's Awareness Association for ICT equipment, sewing equipment, toys and electronic dictionaries;
- (c) considers authorising a grant of up to £3,000 for the charity Loaves 'N' Fishes for the total cost of ICT equipment;
- (d) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for Halas Homes for chairs, tables and other furniture and computers;
- (e) considers authorising a grant of up to £3,664 for the Halesowen Chamber of Trade for the cost of replacing the Christmas lights in the town centre;
- (f) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for the Halas Team Ministry towards the cost of replacing lead stolen from the Church roof;
- (g) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for Stourbridge and Halesowen Age Concern towards the total cost of redecoration, carpets and furniture;
- (h) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for The Hub, towards the cost of purchasing a mobile football plus trailer.



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Iain Newman –

Area Liaison Officer

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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.

Halesowen Area Committee – Unspent Allocations

Recipient	For	Date of Committee Approval	Latest Deadline for Claim	Amount Allocated & Not Yet Spent	Comments
Approved in Last Six Months					
-					
Approved over Six Months Ago					
Leasowes Community College (Greenhill Youth Centre)	ICT equipment for community use.	9th March 2011	9th September 2011	3000.00	Grant will be spent by October half-term. A lot of the work has been completed but will submit invoices all together.
Cradley Town Football Club	Disabled facilities	12th November 2008	31st August 2011	2500.00	The grant was originally approved towards building disabled toilets. Since then there have been a number of changes to the proposed use of the funds and, for some time now, the club has been looking at wider proposals to regenerate the ground. Given the time that has elapsed it is proposed that this grant be withdrawn and the club be invited to reapply as part of the wider project, if, and when, that goes forward.
Grant Claimed - Balance not required					
Tanhouse Tenants & Residents Association	To purchase a laptop and other associated ICT equipment.	Delegated powers 22 March 2011	22nd September 2011	64.03	Allocated £800.00. £64.03 remaining.
Grand Total				5,564.03	