

**Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council**

**North Dudley Area Committee – 26 January 2005**

**Report of the North Dudley Area Liaison Officer**

**Capital Allocations**

**Purpose**

1. The purposes of the report are:
  - to inform the Committee of the financial position relating to capital allocations by the North Dudley Area Committee.
  - to advise the Area Committee of applications considered by the Working Group.
  - to seek the Area Committee's agreement to the recommendations made by the Working Group at their meeting on 7 January 2005.
  - to summarise the progress made to date in respect of the approved capital allocations.

**Background**

2. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers applications for funding according to criteria agreed by the Area Committee. In summary, applications are required to be made by *bona fide* community groups; that applications be for capital or one-off expenditure; that appropriate safeguards are put in place to ensure that the funding is properly used.
3. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers representations made by Ward Councillors on applications, which may be accepted, accepted but at a reduced amount, referred back for further discussions with the applicant, or refused.
4. From time to time advertisements will be placed in the local press advertising the availability of the funding and the criteria for allocation.
5. The balance available for allocation in 2004/05 is £116,182.
6. 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
Total available for 2004/05	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£32,848</u></b>	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£131,395</u></b>
Allocations agreed in 2004/05 - up to and including meeting on 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2004	£0	£0	£2,500	£12,713	£15,213
Balance unallocated	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£30,348</u></b>	<b><u>£20,136</u></b>	<b><u>£116,182</u></b>

### **Recommendations of the Working Group meeting 7th January 2005**

7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lower Gornal Scout Group- Gornal Ward

An application has been received for £1320.99 *inc VAT (£1141.24 net)* for the purchase of 10 folding lightweight tables, together with trolley to store. For use both in and outside Headquarters, for general training and catering within the community.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £1141.24.

8. Gornal Athletic FC – Gornal Ward

An application has been received for £2761.88 for the purchase of administrative and training equipment including photocopier, goal posts and other training equipment.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was recommended that a decision be deferred until further information is available.

9. Upper Gornal Kids Club – Gornal Ward

An application has been received for £1525.00 for the purchase of a laptop computer, printer, stationery and ink.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was recommended that a decision be deferred to await the following information:

- i. Another quote.
- ii. Confirmation from Finance as to whether the application is capital. Finance has subsequently confirmed that the application is eligible.
- iii. Confirmation as to whether there is an extended guarantee on the proposed PC package.
- iv. Liaison with ICT Services to see if there are any obsolete computers that could be donated.

10. Turfs Hill Residents' Association – Coseley West

A previous application, which was refused on the grounds of eligibility, was reconsidered and deferred to the next Working Group to allow:

- i. Finance to provide information in relation to previous applications from the Association. The Association were awarded a grant of £9106 (*inc VAT*) in 2003 in respect of the preparation of a management plan by Middlemarch

Environmental Ltd.

- ii. Finance has re-confirmed that this application does not fall within the criteria laid down for the granting of capital funding.

11. Saltmine Trust

An application has been received for £1750.00 for the purchase of equipment for drama, music and dance sessions at the Mill Theatre, Dormston.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was recommended that a decision be deferred to the next NDAC meeting to await the following:

- i. Ward Councillors to consider application in detail
- ii. Capital eligibility to be confirmed in respect of costumes and props worth £500.

12. Unspent Commitments as at December 2004

A summary of approved applications which are not fully spent to date was circulated. Following consideration, it was recommended that this item be deferred to the next Working Group for further discussion.

**Proposals**

- 13. It is recommended that the Committee endorse the proposals above.

**Finance**

- 14. An approved Capital budget of £131,395 is available for 2004/05. Allocations totalling £15,213 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £116,182 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005 would reduce this balance by a further £1141.24. (Para 7) to £115,041, if approved.

**Law**

- 15. The Council's budgeting process is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

**Equal Opportunities**

- 16. These proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunity policies.

**Recommendation**

- 17. That the proposals set out in paragraph 13 of this report be approved.



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