

**Halesowen Area Committee – 16th November 2005**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Delegated Capital Budget**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.

**Background**

2. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in the Appendix. 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.

3. **Caslon Primary School – Day Nursery Unit**

A request has been received from Caslon School's Voluntary Management Committee for funding of £4,110 for the purchase of outdoor play equipment for a new nursery unit which will be set up at the School. The Management Committee has already been successful in attracting revenue funding and capital funding towards the refurbishment costs of the nursery area in the School. The outdoor play equipment would enhance the facilities.

The School has submitted an expression of interest to deliver Children's Centre services in the Cradley Area in partnership with Colley Lane Primary School and Barnardo's and subject to further feasibility work, this proposal is likely to be approved. That would provide long term stability to the provision at Caslon.

The Director of Children's Services advises that the services being developed at Caslon will make an important contribution to the "Every Child Matters" agenda and funding from the Area Committee would be beneficial in supporting an holistic approach to services for the under 5's. I am therefore recommending that the Committee approves a grant of £4,110.

4. **Huntingtree Senior Men's Leisure Centre**

A request was received from the Huntingtree Senior Men's Leisure Centre for funding to replace a cooker used on the site that was originally installed in the 1950s. The amount requested was £294.00

I have, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, approved a grant of £294.00

## **Finance**

5. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.

## **Law**

6. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
7. 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**

8. This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

## **Recommendation**

9. It is recommended that the Area Committee:-
  - (a) approves a grant of £4,110 to the Caslon Primary School Day Nursery Unit for the purchase of outdoor play equipment;
  - (b) notes my action, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body, in approving a grant of £294.00 to the Huntingtree Senior Men's Leisure Centre, for the purchase of a new cooker.



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**Mike Williams**  
**Area Liaison Officer**

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## **List of Background papers**

Requests for funding

**CRITERIA FOR CAPITAL BIDS/ALLOCATIONS**

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.