

North Dudley Area Committee – 15th September 2010

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To consider applications for a capital allocation from the North Dudley Area Committee's delegated capital budget.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £120,798. Spending proposals are invited from members of the Area Committee, the public, representative organisations and Council departments, and each proposal is assessed against strict criteria as set out in the Appendix A.
3. A copy of applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

Applications

4. **Sedgley Shop Keepers (Sedgley)**

An application in the sum of £5,000.00 was received from the above for the purchase and installation of Christmas lights for Sedgley town centre.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application. However, additional revenue costs to support the lights will need to be found after this Christmas.

5. **Sedgley in Bloom (Sedgley)**

An application in the sum of £308.11 was received from the above for a new Sedgley coat of arms to be flown in Sedgley town centre. This should improve the town centre.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application.

6. Gornal Business Watch (Gornal)

An application in the sum of £5,000 was received from the above for Christmas lights for Gornal.

Gornal Business Watch's aim is to try to improve facilities and amenities and the appearance of Gornal village. The group have 15 members but helps the village of Gornal as a whole.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application. However, additional revenue costs to support the lights will need to be found after this Christmas.

7. Summerhill Community Association (Coseley East)

An application in the sum of £1,100 was received from the above to modernise the building used by the group and to make sure it complies with the Disability Act. The works would include installing ramped access for wheelchair users, further double glazed windows to conserve heating and further work to the building and car park.

The grant would be used as match funding to access external funding from Sita Trust. £1,100 represents 11% of the expected costs.

The organisation promotes and facilitates learning and social activities for all local inter generational groups. The venue is also used as a polling station, for ward councillor meetings, neighbourhood watch meetings and is available for private function hire.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application.

8. St. Peters Church (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton)

An application in the sum of £1,548.80 was received from the above for 100 stacking chairs to be used in the church.

The church's main aim to provide a place of worship with a friendly atmosphere to all. The church is also used by a number of local groups for both learning and recreation.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application.

9. Christ Church Primary School (Coseley East)

An application in the sum of £1,476.48 was received from the above for a number of gardening items including a shed and a greenhouse and various tools and equipment to be used for gardening.

The school has an allotment which they use to grow organic fruit and vegetables with the children. The aim of this project is to encourage children to appreciate and explore nature and embrace a healthier lifestyle, for the school to achieve an eco-school certificate and award and for the school to work with the local community.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application.

Finance

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

11. The following shows allocations approved to date, and the budget remaining:

	Coseley East Ward	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward	Gornal Ward	Sedgley Ward	Total
Undistributed balance brought forward	<u>21,043</u>	<u>38,948</u>	<u>19,473</u>	<u>11,275</u>	<u>90,739</u>
New allocation for 10/11*	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000
Awarded 10/11:					
June 2010	(3,007)	(7,174)			(10,181)
Returned (time expired)	60	60	60	60	240
Undistributed balance	<u>28,096</u>	<u>41,833</u>	<u>29,533</u>	<u>21,335</u>	<u>120,798</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid					23,702
Grants paid 10-11					2,500
Total					147,000
Authorised capital budget					147,000
Considered this meeting:					
Grants	(2,577)	(1,548)	(5,000)	(5,308)	(14,433)

13. An approved capital budget of £107,000 is currently available for 2010/11. The undistributed balance is £120,798; applications within this report, if approved, would reduce that balance by £13,433.

Law

14. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

16. That decisions set out in paragraphs 4 to 9 of this report are noted

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P. Tart', with a large loop and a long horizontal stroke.

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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: Philip Tart

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.
- h) Approved allocations will be limited to a maximum of £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated