

North Dudley Area Committee – 29th March 2010

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To confirm standing authorisations and procedures for distributing capital funds delegated to this area committee.
2. To consider applications for a capital allocation from the North Dudley Area Committee's delegated capital budget.

Background

3. Standing procedures for considering capital applications were approved at the meeting of the North Dudley Area Committee on 8th April 2009 (Minute No. 83 (1 and 2)).
4. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £94,804. 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.
5. A copy of applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

Standing authorisations / procedures for considering capital allocations

6. North Dudley Area Committee maintains a capital fund to be distributed for the benefit of local communities. Traditionally, and with reference to existing practice, this is currently managed thus:
 - a. capital funds to be allocated equally between the four key wards affected, namely Coseley East, Upper Gornal and Woodsetton, Gornal and Sedgley
 - b. the appointment of a 'capital budget working group' to consider, in advance, all grant applications and to make recommendations to the full area committee for ratification
 - c. all applications should be considered against a strict criteria for capital allocations as defined in the attached appendix A.

- d. that, subject to (c) above,:
 - i. in the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chairman at the first meeting of the Area Committee in a municipal year, the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Leaders of all political groups represented on the Council, is authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
 - ii. thereafter, the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), is authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.

Applications

7. Sedgley and District Community Association

An application in the sum of £3,859.88 was received from the above for supply and construction of fencing between the clinic car park and community centre land. This is necessary to fulfil a condition of license established in 2005 in respect of a previous building extension and required works access at that time.

Sedgley and District Community Association provide educational, recreational and vocational activities for the wider community. This is delivered through events organised and operated directly by the association, or by providing rooms and facilities for hire to other organisations and private individuals.

The organisation has a large membership in excess of 500 people and anticipate that the work could be completed during the forthcoming spring / summer. It has benefited from previous grant allocations from this area committee, but not since 2006/07 when it was awarded a total of £10,000 towards the extension project and CCTV.

Although there has been no working group to consider this application, committee members have been consulted.

8. Summerhill Community Association

An application in the sum of £3,000 was received from the above for replacement windows (twelve in total) to the back and side of premises. The full cost of the project is estimated to be £3,352.

The organisation promotes and facilitates learning and social activities (such as flower arranging, handicrafts and snooker) for all local inter generational groups. The venue is also used as a polling station, for ward councillor meetings, neighbourhood watch and police safety meetings and is available for occasional private function hire. They estimate that approximately 40 people per week benefit from its services.

This is the second phase of a wider window replacement plan. The first phase, for replacement windows to front of premises, was brought to this committee in September 2009 and was awarded a grant of £1,600.

Although there has been no working group to consider this application, committee members have been consulted.

9. Time Expired Grants

- o There are currently no time expired grants outstanding

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 09/10 brought forward	<u>25,437</u>	<u>33,775</u>	<u>20,805</u>	<u>11,788</u>	<u>91,805</u>
New allocation for 09/10	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000
Awarded 09/10:					
April 09	(8,322)	(1,285)	(7,988)	(1,552)	(19,147)
June 09	(791)				(791)
September 09	(4,930)	(3,329)	(1,050)	(2,125)	(11,434)
December 09	(300)	(300)	(300)	(7,925)	(8,825)
February 10			(2,080)		(2,080)
Returned (time expired)		138	138	5,000	5,276
Undistributed balance	<u>21,094</u>	<u>38,999</u>	<u>19,525</u>	<u>15,186</u>	<u>94,804</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid					<u>19,962</u>
Grants paid 09-10					<u>37,234</u>
Total					152,000
Authorised capital budget					152,000
Considered this meeting:					
Grants	(3,000)			(3,860)	(6,860)

12. An approved capital budget of £152,000 is available for 2009/10. The undistributed balance is currently £94,804; applications within this report, if approved, would reduce that balance by £6,860.

Law

13. 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

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

Recommendation

15. That the current arrangements for considering capital applications made to this Area Committee be considered and approved, as defined in paragraph 6, for the remainder of this municipal year and up to the first meeting of the North Dudley Area Committee in the new municipal year for 2010/11.
16. That capital applications as detailed in paragraphs 7 and 8 to this report are considered by this committee.

A handwritten signature in black 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