

North Dudley Area Committee – 3rd December 2008

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To confirm that subject to (2) below, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
2. To confirm that, 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 Lead Officer, in consultation with the Leaders of all political groups represented on the Council, be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.

Background

3. At the meeting of the North Dudley Area Committee on 25th June, 2008, Minute No. 19 (1) authorised the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Capital Allocations Working Group to determine and process all applications received to date, under his delegated powers.
4. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in the Appendix. A copy of the applications referred to in this report is available to Members on request. The following applications have been received.
5. Brierley Hill Amateur Swimming Club

An application in the sum of £7,708 was received from the above to replace lane ropes and to purchase new learn to swim equipment for Coseley Swimming Pool. The group queried whether the application should be approved in principle and whether this was a fair amount to be funded from North Dudley Area Committee funds, given that a large proportion of the members come from outside the North Dudley area.

Following careful consideration by the Working Group, it was agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that the application be deferred while inquiries are made as to whether these items should be provided through Leisure Services.

6. Dudley North Detached Team

An application in the sum of £5,500 was received from the above to purchase video recording and editing equipment.

The team aims to provide nationally recognised accreditation for young people, to develop personal and social skills of young people and also increase their employability.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that this application be deferred pending the restructuring of the Youth Service, to obtain further information and to look into making a partial contribution towards the costs.

7. West Midlands Police

An application in the sum of £388.50 was received from the above to purchase a drug display case that would be used to educate local people as to the appearance and dangers of drugs and substances.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that the application be turned down on the basis that the need for financial support had not been demonstrated.

8. Capital allocations funding.

Concerns were expressed regarding the amount of unallocated funds still remaining in the capital allocations budget. It was therefore recommended that the Area Committee consider advertising the availability of funds for local community and voluntary organisations.

Finance

9. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.
10. 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
Balance available from 2007/08	<u>£18,322</u>	<u>£36,876</u>	<u>£10,668</u>	<u>£6,062</u>	<u>£71,928</u>
New allocation for 2008/09	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2008/09	£2,903	£14,979	£4,003	£7,403	£29,288
Balance unallocated	<u>£25,419</u>	<u>£31,897</u>	<u>£16,665</u>	<u>£8,659</u>	<u>£82,640</u>

11. An approved capital budget of £111,928 is available for 2008/09, including the allocation for the new financial year of £40,000.

Allocations totalling £29,288 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £82,640 to be allocated.

The recommendations in this report would not impact on the balance of funding.

Law

12. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
13. 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

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

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 7 to 14 be noted and the proposals in paragraph 16 and 17 be approved.



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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: John Freeman

Appendix

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.