

Halesowen Area Committee – 10 November 2010

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To recommend grants from the Committee's Capital Budget Allocation and associated matters.

Background

2. I have provided below details of the current financial position on uncommitted/unspent capital budget. Prior to the consideration of bids referred to in this report, the table below summarises that position:-

	£
Total allocations 2000/01 to 2010/11	550,000
Less:	
- Spent to date	(461,756)
- Allocated to bidders, but not yet spent (see Appendix 2)	(42,341)
- Earmarked for Town Centre enhancements	(17,000)
- Earmarked for Empty Shops Grant initiative (Cradley/Windmill Hill, Shell Corner and the Stag) (£790 each)	(2,370)
Available to spend on new bids/earmarks	26,533

3. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. 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.

4. Halesowen/Dudley Yemeni Community Association
An application has been received from the Association for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards the cost of £6,995 to purchase a minibus to provide disabled access for elderly people with special needs. This would replace their existing minibus.
5. Members may recall a grant of £6,000 was approved in 2008/09 towards the improvement of the appearance of the Yemeni Centre, both internally and externally, which was in a poor state of repair. Also, in 2007/08 a grant of £1,064 was given for the provision of a new Public Address (PA) System.
6. **This seems a worthwhile project and the Association will fund the remainder of the cost of the minibus. I am therefore recommending that members consider approving a grant of up to £5,000.**
7. Security Gates Action Committee
An application was received for a contribution of £800 towards the cost of £1,580 to install gates to a private access road serving the rear of 56 properties on Shenstone Valley, Compton, Kent and Gower Roads. The area has problems with damage to property, underage drinking and anti-social behaviour.
8. **I have in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson approved a grant of £800 for this purpose. The Action Committee will fund the remainder of the cost of the gates.**

Finance

9. The total available to spend on new bids in 2010/11 is £26,533. Recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations and would leave a balance of £20,733 for the remainder of 2010/11 available:-

	£	Ward
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>	<u>Up to:</u>	
Halesowen/Dudley Yemeni Community Association	5,000	Belle Vale
<u>Approved under Delegation-</u>	<u>Up to:</u>	
Security Gates Action Committee	800	Halesowen South
Total	5,800	

Law

10. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
11. 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

12. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendations

13. It is proposed that the Area Committee:
 - (a) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for Halesowen/Dudley Yemeni Community Association towards the purchase of a minibus;
 - (b) notes the grant of £800 to the Security Gates Action Committee.



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Iain Newman
Area Liaison Officer

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Criteria for Bids/Allocations

- a. The allocation 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 and Council Plans 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 on-going revenue costs.
- e. Consideration should be given to schemes that might generate external funding (i.e. using these budgets as match funding).
- f. Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value.
- g. Approved allocation must normally be claimed within six months.