

Halesowen Area Committee – 24th January 2008

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. 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.

Cradley Girls Group (Barnardos)

3. Cradley Girls Group promotes life and social skills by encouraging members to participate in a wide range of activities that enhance confidence and self esteem. These activities include arts and crafts, taster sports, cookery and social events.
4. The Group has requested funding amounting to £1,000 for a laptop and associated software to promote topics of interest.
5. I have consulted colleagues in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services who support the application. I am, therefore, recommending a grant of £1,000 for the purchase of these items.

UWest Midlands Police (PCSOs)

6. A request has been received for funding from the West Midlands Police to enable the purchase of bikes and associated safety equipment/uniforms for use by two PCSOs who currently cover the Uffmoor, Hayley Green, Hagley Road and Hasbury areas on foot.
7. The application has been submitted through the Friends of Huntingtree Park, who fully supports the application and have confirmed that there has been a significant decrease in anti-social behaviour on the park and nearby areas due to the visibility of PCSOs in and around the area. I am, therefore, recommending a grant of £2,821.50

for the purchase of the bikes and associated equipment.

Halesowen Asian Elderly Association

8. The Association's aims are "to promote any charitable purpose for the relief of elderly persons within the Asian community of the West Midlands who are in need in particular by the advancement of education, the protection of good health and the provision of recreational facilities."
9. A request for funding has been received for the purchase of an LCD television, including installation and insurance costs along with a laptop computer and printer.
10. Having consulted with colleagues who support the application, I am recommending a grant of £1,672 be approved.

Finance

11. The total available for distribution in 2007/08 is £68,000. Recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations:-

	£	Ward
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>		
Cradley Girls Group (Barnardos)	1,000.00	Cradley & Foxcote and Cradley South
West Midlands Police (PCSOs)	2,821.50	Hayley Green
Halesowen Asian Elderly Assoc	1,672.00	All wards
Total	£5,493.50	

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 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

15. It is proposed that the Area Committee:-

- (a) approves a grant of £1,000 to the Cradley Girls Group (Barnardos) for the purchase of a laptop and associated software;
- (b) approves a grant of £2,821.50 to the West Midlands Police for the purchase of two new bikes and associated safety equipment/uniforms for two PCSOs;
- (c) approves a grant of £1,672 to the Halesowen Asian Elderly Association for the purchase of an LCD television, including insurance along with a laptop computer and printer for use at the Centre.



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Mike Williams
Area Liaison Officer

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Criteria for 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 directorates and each proposal is assessed against the following criteria:-

- 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 cost to the Council.
- e. Consideration should be given to schemes that might generate external funding (i.e. using these budgets 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 allocation must normally be claimed within six months.