

**North Dudley Area Committee – 28 June 2006**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Delegated Capital Budget**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.
2. To confirm that subject to (1.2) below, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
3. To confirm that, in the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chair 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**

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.
- 5, Summerhill Forum

An application in the sum of £16,944 from Summerhill Forum for the installation of security fencing around the open land covering Higgins Avenue, Harding Street & Brierley Lane, Coseley, was considered by the Committee at the meeting held on 23 March 06 and approved, subject to confirmation that no Section 106 funding was available and also subject to assurances with regard to the receipt of suitable quotes.

During the recess, it was confirmed by the Assistant Director that no Section 106 funding was available; it was also confirmed that satisfactory quotes for the work to be undertaken had been received. The approved quote was for the sum of £16,944. Subsequently, the Area Liaison Officer approved the release of the funding under the delegated powers so that work on the project could begin.

6. Access in Dudley

An application in the sum of £1,541 was submitted by Access in Dudley for the purchase of a computer, printer and software. Following consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 23 March 06, the Committee approved the application, subject to a further quote being submitted and subject to the other four Area Committees being approached for funding, since the organisation operated on a Borough wide basis.

Following the receipt of funding applications it has been agreed that although the organisation was Borough-wide, in the case of Borough wide organisations, the responsibility of deciding funding applications would rest with the Committee appertaining to the area where the organisation is based.

Subsequently, the Area Liaison Officer, under delegated powers, approved an allocation in the sum of £903.81, being the cost of a cheaper quote received from Access in Dudley for the purchase of laptop, printer and software. This cost has been spread equally across the 4 wards covered by the Area Committee.

7. Sedgley in Bloom

As indicated in the minutes of the Area Committee on 23 March 2006, the application from Sedgley in Bloom for the purchase of barrier baskets to provide ongoing flower displays was dealt with by the Area Liaison Officer under delegated powers. An amount of £6,444 has been allocated following appropriate assurances with regards to the positioning of the baskets.

**Finance**

8. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.
9. The balance available for allocation in 2006/07 is £164,555, including the allocation for 2006/07 of £40,000.
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
Total available for 2006/07	<b><u>£37,163</u></b>	<b><u>£36,528</u></b>	<b><u>£26,232</u></b>	<b><u>£24,632</u></b>	<b><u>£124,555</u></b>
New allocation for 2006/07	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2006/07	£17,170	£226	£476	£6,670	£24,542
Balance unallocated	<b><u>£29,993</u></b>	<b><u>£46,302</u></b>	<b><u>£35,756</u></b>	<b><u>£27,962</u></b>	<b><u>£140,013</u></b>

11. An approved capital budget of £164,555 is available for 2006/07 (This includes a saving on the Sedgley Christmas lights 2005 allocation in the sum of £1,099 that has been added back to the Sedgley Ward budget, plus the new allocation for 2006/07). Allocations totalling £24,542 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £140,013 to be allocated.

**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 Equal Opportunities Policy.

**Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 3 to 7 be approved.



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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: John Freeman

**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.