

Halesowen Area Committee – 6 July 2011

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 | (503,588) |
| - Allocated to bidders, but not yet spent (see Appendix 2) | (15,467) |
| - 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) |
| Add back: | |
| - Available from a review of unspent allocations (see Appendix 2) | 427 |
| Sub-Total | 12,002 |
| - New Capital Allocation for 2011/12 * | 50,000 |
| Available to spend on new bids/earmarks | 62,002 |

- * Note - Cabinet, at its meeting on 29 June 2011 and Council at its meeting on 18 July 2011 are being recommended to agree a further capital allocation of £50,000 for 2011/12. However, at the time of writing this report, that has not been agreed.
3. It has been the Committee's practice to delegate authority to me, in consultation with the Chairman and a representative from the Opposition Group, to agree requests from Community and Voluntary groups for small grants (up to a maximum of £2,000) and this arrangement has worked well. I am recommending it should continue in 2011/12.
 4. 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.
 5. At the last meeting of this Committee on 9 March 2011, members requested detailed information to enable informed decisions about unspent allocations. These are set out in Appendix 2.
 - There are four grants that were approved in the last six months and the initial deadline for claiming has not expired.
 - There are four grants (to three organisations) which were approved more than six months ago and members are asked to consider whether the most recent deadlines set by officers should be extended.
 - There is one grant that has been claimed, leaving a balance un-required, and it is recommended that the balance be made available to be reallocated.
 6. Abbey Road Allotments

An application has been received from the group for capital funding of up to £1,978 for the installation of a water dip tank with tap, top soil to fill raised beds and wooden picnic tables. This project would provide a new venture for disabled people as the group have already made modifications to their building (rented from the Council) to accommodate them such as widening doors for wheelchair access.

7. *This seems a worthwhile project which will enable the disabled users to undertake a new venture. I am therefore recommending that members consider approving a grant of up to £1,978.*

8. Halesowen Parish Church of St John the Baptist.
An application has been received from the group for capital funding for up to £5,000 towards a cost of £17,517.29 to replace their existing boiler. The group works with the community and host events such as school carol services, youth services, Remembrance Day service. They are also visited by schools which plays a part in their history curriculum.

9. Members may recall a grant of £5,000 approved in 2004/05 towards the stonework repair and conservation work to the south side of the church.

10. *I am recommending that members consider, in the light of previous funding to this organisation, whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*

11. Loaves n Fishes
An application has been received from the group for capital funding of up to £3,000 for the total cost of ICT equipment. The group helps to relieve poverty by providing furniture and other household items including clothes, toys and food.

12. Members may recall a grant of £2,500 in 2009/10 towards a replacement delivery van.

13. *I am recommending that members consider, in the light of previous funding to this organisation, whether a grant of up to £3,000 should be approved.*

14. Howley Grange Scout Group
An application has been received from the group for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards a cost of £16,000 for the ongoing refurbishment of the site to include the tarmac of the car park, fencing, landscaping, entrance porch, flooring etc. This will enable the group to extend their facilities to other community groups.

15. Members may recall a grant of £3,600 was approved in 2010/11 towards the cost of developing community meeting rooms and that a grant of £590 was approved, also in 2010/11 for the purchase of market stalls to help with fund raising efforts, in 2009/10 approval of grant of £2,500 for a kitchen refurbishment and in 2008/09 approval of grant of £5,000 for security light, alarm, window and door shutters.
16. *I am recommending that members consider, in the light of previous funding to this organisation, whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*
17. St Margaret of Antioch
- An application has been received from the group for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards a cost of £6,780.42 for the provision of re-decoration of the interior of the church and purchase of a new sound system as the old one continually breaks down. The church is part of the local community and, as well as being a place of worship, is used as a venue for concerts. It has strong connections with local schools, with members visiting classrooms and helping teaching staff on a practical basis.
18. Members may recall a grant of £5,000 approved in 2010/11 towards major roof repairs at the Church costing around £46,000.
19. *I am recommending that members consider, in the light of previous funding to this organisation, whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*

Finance

20. The total available to spend on new bids in 2011/12 is £62,002 subject to £50,000 being allocated by Council at its meeting on 18 July 2011. If this funding is approved, recommendations in this report will result in the following maximum allocations, leaving a balance of £42,024 for the remainder of 2011/12.

| | £ | Ward |
|---|---------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Recommended for approval:-</u> | <u>Up to:</u> | |
| Howley Grange Scout Group | 5,000 | Halesowen South |
| Abbey Road Allotments | 1,978 | Hayley Green & Cradley South |
| Loaves n Fishes | 3,000 | All Wards |
| St Margaret of Antioch | 5,000 | Belle Vale |
| Halesowen Parish Church of St John the Baptist. | 5,000 | Belle Valle |
| Total | 19,978 | |

Law

21. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
22. 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

23. 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

24. It is proposed that the Area Committee considers the four grants set out in Appendix 2 which were approved more than six months ago and determines in each case whether the latest deadline should be extended.
25. It is proposed that the Area Committee approves that an unspent allocation of £427, as identified in Appendix 2, be made available to be reallocated.

26. It is proposed that Area Committee:-

- (a) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for Howley Grange Scout Group for the ongoing refurbishment of the site to include the tarmac of the car park, fencing, landscaping, entrance porch, flooring etc.
- (b) considers authorising a grant of up to £1,978 for Abbey Road Allotments for the installation of a water dip tank with tap, top soil to fill raised beds and wooden picnic tables
- (c) considers authorising a grant of up to £3,000 for Loaves n Fishes for ICT equipment for the group.
- (d) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for St Margaret of Antioch for the provision of re-decoration of the interior of the church and purchase of a new sound system.
- (e) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for Halesowen Parish Church of St John the Baptist to replace their existing boiler



.....

Iain Newman –

Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Iain Newman – Ext 4802

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.

Halesowen Area Committee – Unspent Allocations

| Recipient | For | Date of Committee Approval | Latest Deadline for Claim | Amount Allocated & Not Yet Spent | Comments |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Approved in Last Six Months | | | | | |
| Leasowes Community College (Greenhill Youth Centre) | ICT equipment for community use. | 9th March 2011 | 9th September 2011 | 3000.00 | |
| The Church of God | Towards structural maintenance of the building. | 9th March 2011 | 9th September 2011 | 1350.00 | |
| Howley Grange Scout Group | Market stall style shelters. | Delegated powers 9 February 2011 | 9th August 2011 | 590.00 | |
| Tanhouse Tenants & Residents Association | To purchase a laptop and other associated ICT equipment. | Delegated powers 22 March 2011 | 22nd September 2011 | 800.00 | |

| Recipient | For | Date of Committee Approval | Latest Deadline for Claim | Amount Allocated & Not Yet Spent | Comments |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Approved over Six Months Ago | | | | | |
| Wollescote Community Association | Major kitchen refurbishment | 9th September 2010 | 31st July 2011 | 1800.00 | The project has been delayed as a result of the Centre being closed for eight weeks during the winter following a burst pipe. It has also been necessary to replace the boiler. Quotes for kitchen works are now being sought. |
| Caslon Community Partnership | Fencing to secure site | 3rd September and 11th November 2009 | 30th June 2011 | 2500.00 | A number of extensions have been given to allow time for consultation with local residents and to make bids to the Big Lottery for the balance of funding required to complete the project (total cost £48,000). As the latest deadline expires on 30 th June 2011, an update will be sought in time for the Area Committee meeting. |
| Cradley Town Football Club | Disabled facilities | 1st July 2009 | 31st August 2011 | 2500.00 | The grant was originally approved towards building disabled toilets. The club now have wider proposals to regenerate the ground, creating a community facility for the area, and to this end they are bidding for funds through Business Link. They have asked to |

| Recipient | For | Date of Committee Approval | Latest Deadline for Claim | Amount Allocated & Not Yet Spent | Comments |
|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | retain the Halesowen Area Committee grant to include disabled toilets as part of that wider project. |
| Grant Claimed - Balance not required | | | | | |
| Halesowen/Dudley Yemeni Community Association | To purchase a minibus to provide disabled access for elderly people with special needs | 10th November 2010 | 10th May 2011 | 426.80 | The original grant allocation was for £3,500. The project has been completed at a cost of £3,073.20 leaving a surplus of £426.60. It is recommended that this balance is made available for reallocation. |
| Grand Total | | | | 15466.8 | |