

North Dudley Area Committee – 24 September 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.
3. To inform the Area Committee of 2 additional applications received from Sedgley & District Community Association and Sedgley Weight Lifting Club that were considered by a meeting of the Working Group held on 01 September 2008.

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. The following applications have been received.
5. 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.
6. All the applications referred to below were considered by the North Dudley Area Committee Capital Allocations Working Group on 22nd July, 2008 and the decisions of the Working Group were processed by the Area Liaison Officer as indicated in paragraphs 7 to 14 below.

7. Bayer Street Allotments Association

An application in the sum of £4,805.55 was received from the above, towards the repair of fencing which had been damaged by vandals.

The application was deferred from the previous Working Group meeting so that additional quotes could be obtained. These have now been submitted.

The Working Group felt that this was a worthwhile cause and agreed that a contribution of £2,000 be made towards the scheme if the balance can be funded by the allotment users. The Area Liaison Officer approved the contribution under delegated powers.

Any subsequent fencing repair / maintenance would be the responsibility of the Association.

8. Coseley Comets Drum and Trumpet Corps

An application in the sum of £6,900 was received from the above towards the purchase of new musical instruments.

The working group turned down the application on the grounds that funding has been allocated to the Coseley Comets as the result of a previous application.

9. Coseley Community Education Network

An application in the sum of £4,000 was received from the above to install security fencing and gates to prevent graffiti and other anti-social behaviour.

The organisation aims to promote and support community groups in Coseley East in education and learning activities.

Following careful consideration, the Working Group agreed a contribution of £2,000 be made to support the proposals on page 53 as the Working Group had been advised that the proposals on page 54 had been refused planning permission.

The contribution was approved under the Area Liaison Officer's delegated powers.

10. North Dudley Kickz project

An application in the sum of £12,000 was initially submitted in August 2007. A revised application in the sum of £12,337 has now been received. The funding is to be used towards the cost of a mobile pitch for use as part of a wider project with the West Midlands Police and Connections Positive Activities for Young People in the North Dudley area.

The allocation was deferred at the time due to a number of concerns. A response has been received addressing the concerns that were raised at the time.

The Working Group felt that there were some further issues to be addressed and agreed that the application be deferred while further advice was sought from colleagues in the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

11. All Saints Church Sedgley

An application in the sum of £5,000 was received from the above to convert the existing male toilets to include a disabled toilet.

The church is the main parish church and provides religious Church of England Services to all within the borough.

The working Group fully supported this cause and the Area Liaison Officer approved the application under delegated powers.

12. West Midlands Fire Service

An application was received from West Midlands Fire Service requesting that each Area Committee contribute £1,613 towards a range of equipment such as protective clothing, drill yard equipment and a public address system that would allow them to run a number of Fire Intervention Repair Education (FIRE) projects.

These projects are aimed at engaging youngsters with the aims of increasing self-esteem, communication and social skills.

Following consultation, this application was approved under the powers delegated to the Area Liaison Officer.

13. Baggeridge Social Club

The Club has submitted an application in the sum of £3,377 towards the provision of disabled toilet facilities.

On reviewing further information that had been submitted, the Working Group agreed that a contribution of £1,600 be made to the Social Welfare Centre subject to confirmation that the works to be carried out will be fully Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant.

The contribution was approved under the Area Liaison Officer's delegated powers.

14. Upper Gornal & Woodsetton Ward Councillors

An application in the sum of £10,375 was received from the Ward members for the provision of off-road parking on a busy main road in order to reduce safety risks that are caused by the heavy traffic flow along the road.

The Working Group agreed that the application be approved. In addition, the Working Group agreed that a further £1,700 be approved for the provision of a trip rail.

The project is being match funded by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

The contribution was approved under the Area Liaison Officer's delegated powers.

15. The following late applications were considered by a meeting of the Working Group held on 01 September 2008.

16. Sedgley & District Community Association

An application in the sum of £9,769.40 was received from the above towards the cost of connecting a storm water drain and construction of a drain run.

The Working Group recommended that the application be refused on the grounds that the Association has had several applications approved previously.

17. Sedgley Weight Lifting Club

An application in the sum of £5,000 was received from the above towards the cost of rewiring the premises and installing polycarbonate sheets to cover window apertures.

The Club aims to provide the opportunity for people to keep fit and healthy through weight training and weight lifting.

There were a number of concerns that had been raised by Ward Councillors that were addressed at the meeting to the satisfaction of those present. As the club was mainly used by members from 3 wards, it was recommended that the funding be split with £1,500 each from both the Sedgley and Gornal wards allocations and the remaining £2,000 to be funded from the Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward.

Finance

18. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.

19. 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	£12,979	£2,503	£5,903	£24,288
Balance unallocated	<u>£25,419</u>	<u>£33,897</u>	<u>£18,165</u>	<u>£10,159</u>	<u>£87,640</u>

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

The applications discussed by the Working Group on 22nd July 2008 and approved under the Area Liaison Officer's delegated powers have reduced the funding available by £24,288, leaving the sum of £87,640 to be allocated.

The recommendations in this report would reduce the balance by £5,000 (Sedgley Weight Lifting Club) to £82,640 if approved.

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

Recommendation

24. 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.