

**Halesowen Area Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> September 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.
3. Time Out – Shortcross Methodist Church

Time Out, which meets fortnightly at Shortcross Methodist Church, is a group which aims to relieve isolation amongst vulnerable older people by providing social and recreational activities. There are 16 members and 16 helpers.

The Area Committee provided a grant of £200 to the Group in 2007/8 for catering equipment and the latest request is for support of just over £880 for games and percussion instruments, a cupboard to store the games and window blinds, so that DVD's can be screened. The latest set of accounts for the Group show reserves of above £620.

Given the level of reserves and the fact that the Group has been previously supported, I am recommending that the Area Committee provides a grant of £250 (equivalent to half of the sum requested, excluding the cost of window blinds) subject to the balance being matched from the Group's own reserves.

4. Earls High School – Environment Committee

The Environment Committee of the Earls High School Council requests the Area Committee to supply the school with additional green litter bins to compliment the

litter bins already in operation around the school. The cost, including installation would be £1,600.

The Environment Committee meets every Friday lunchtime and pupils are very keen to find out as much information as possible of ways of helping the environment and also keeping the school looking clean and tidy. With this in mind there is a litter pick every other Friday after school finishes.

I am recommending the Area Committee approve an allocation of £1,600 for the provision of eight litter bins at Earls High School.

5. Cradley Cobra Youth Development

Cradley Cobras Junior Football Club is a developing football team for under 8's from the Cradley and Colley Gate Areas. The organiser seeks help with a wide range of items, costing in total over £2,000, of which above £700 relates to capital items, and therefore could be funded from the Area Committee Capital Budget.

This is a project which seems worthy of support, but given the need for the Club to raise other funds, I am recommending the Committee approves in principle a grant of up to £700, subject to further details being made available and authorises me, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, to approve an appropriate grant.

**Finance**

6. The total available for distribution in 2008/09 is £60,000, with £11,727 being allocated at the meeting in July. Recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations:-

	£	Ward
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>		
Time Out	250	All
Earls High School Environment Committee	1,200	
Cradley Cobras	Up to 700	Cradley and Foxcote
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,150</b>	

## **Law**

7. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
8. 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**

9. 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**

10. It is proposed that the Area Committee:-
  - (a) approves a grant of £250 to Time Out, subject to a matching amount being provided from the Group's reserves
  - (b) approves an allocation of £1,200 for the supply and installation of litter bins at Earls High School
  - (c) approves in principle a grant of up to £700 to Cradley Cobra Junior Football Team, and authorises the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, to approve an appropriate grant.



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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.