

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

North Dudley Area Committee – 23 March 2005

Report of the North Dudley Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose

1. The purposes of the report are:
  - to inform the Committee of the financial position relating to capital allocations by the North Dudley Area Committee.
  - to advise the Area Committee of applications considered by the Working Group.
  - to seek the Area Committee's agreement to the recommendations made by the Working Group at their meeting on 3rd March 2005.
  - to summarise the progress made to date in respect of the approved capital allocations.

Background

2. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers applications for funding according to criteria agreed by the Area Committee. In summary, applications are required to be made by *bona fide* community groups; that applications be for capital or one-off expenditure; that appropriate safeguards are put in place to ensure that the funding is properly used.
3. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers representations made by Ward Councillors on applications, which may be accepted, accepted but at a reduced amount, referred back for further discussions with the applicant, or refused.
4. From time to time advertisements will be placed in the local press advertising the availability of the funding and the criteria for allocation.
5. The balance available for allocation in 2004/05 is £114,291.
6. 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 2004/05	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£32,848</u></b>	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£131,395</u></b>
Allocations agreed in 2004/05 - up to and including meeting on 26th January 2005	£0	£0	£3,641	£13,463	£17,104
Balance unallocated	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£32,849</u></b>	<b><u>£29,207</u></b>	<b><u>£19,386</u></b>	<b><u>£114,291</u></b>

### **Recommendations of the Working Group meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005**

#### 7. Beacon Centre for the Blind – Sedgley Ward

An application has been received for £4,879.00 *inc VAT* (£4,152.34 *net*) to purchase the following catering equipment for use at the Beacon Centre – an industrial food mixer, a commercial dishwasher and a commercial refrigerator.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £4,152.34.

In recognition of the Centre's support to residents across the Borough it was also recommended that the cost be equally split across all 4 Wards.

#### 8. Coseley Duke of Edinburgh Award – Coseley East Ward

An application has been received for £4,000.00 for the purchase of equipment for use by young people taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The submission included a detailed equipment list of £2,783.34 *inc VAT* (£2,368.80 *net*) and 2 lump sum requests of £350 and £750 "to cover the cost of equipment".

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £2,783.34.

The lump sum requests could not be considered but the Working Group advised that they would give favourable consideration to the resubmission of a more detailed application.

In recognition of the Borough wide coverage of the Award Scheme it was also recommended that the cost be equally split across all 4 Wards.

#### 9. Gornal Athletic FC – Gornal Ward

This application for £5,000, for the purchase of administrative and training equipment, was deferred from the January meeting, pending further information. The club requests funding for a photocopier with options from £695.00 to £1,634.00, a tractor mower and roller at £1,606.14 (*exc. VAT*) and goal posts, nets and footballs at £1,841.60 (*exc. VAT*).

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £3,098.14 to cover the cost of the tractor mower and

roller and goal posts and nets (footballs, carry nets and carriage costs in the sum of £349.60 could not be considered since they do not meet the criteria for capital funding).

The Working Group did not support the request for the funding of a photocopier. The football club gives opportunity to children outside Gornal Wood and so it was also recommended that the cost be equally split across all 4 Wards.

10. Upper Gornal Kids Club – Gornal Ward

This application, for a lap-top computer, printer and incidental supplies, was resubmitted after obtaining a further quote and additional information with regard to capital eligibility and availability of any second hand computers within the Authority. The cost of the equipment is £1,868.01 (inc VAT).

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £1,223.93 (inc VAT) – warranty costs and some consumable items totalling £644.08 (inc VAT), do not qualify as capital expenditure.

The Group also recommends grant be awarded on condition that the equipment be returned in the event that the Club ceased to operate.

11. Turks Hill Residents' Association – Coseley West

This application is another resubmission. The Working Group was asked to give further consideration to the request for £1,114.00 inc VAT (£1,010.00 net), towards the reproduction of DVDs and Videos to promote the work of the Residents Association with external funding organisations. Finance has confirmed that this application does not fall within the criteria laid down for the granting of capital funding.

The Working Group is supportive of this Association's work but since this submission does not qualify as capital expenditure they could not consider this application.

12. Dudley MBC Housing Services – Coseley East

An application has been received for £1,370.00 to fit and supply gates to provide secure car parking to the area adjacent to 2-8 Whitehouse Street Coseley. Apart from reducing car vandalism it would improve emergency vehicle access to both Coseley Youth Centre and Wallbrook Elderly Persons home.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £1,370.00.

## **Proposals**

13. It is recommended that the Committee endorse the proposals above.

**Finance**

14. An approved Capital budget of £131,395 is available for 2004/05. Allocations totalling £17,104 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £114,291 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 would reduce this balance by a further £12,628 to £101,663, if approved.

**Law**


15. The Council's budgeting process is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

**Equal Opportunities**

16. These proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunity policies.

**Recommendation**

17. That the proposals set out in paragraph 13 of this report be approved.



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**NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: John Freeman**