

North Dudley Area Committee – 07 February 2007

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.
 - 1.1 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.
 - 1.2 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

2. 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.
3. **Oval & Tudor Managed Neighbourhood Community Safety Project**

The application from the Oval and Tudor Managed Neighbourhood Community Safety Project that was initially presented to the Working Group on 30 October 2006 and subsequently refused, was resubmitted to the Working Group on 10 January 2007.

The application was for a sum of £5,000 that would be a contribution to the overall project costs of providing dropped kerbs and hard standings to gardens on the Oval and Tudor estate. The project aims to alleviate parking problems around the estate.

A representative of Oval & Tudor Managed Neighbourhood Community Safety Project was also in attendance at the Working Group to explain the application. Following further debate the Working Group re-affirmed their original decision made on 30 October 2006 to turn down the application as it was felt that this was not a precedent that the Working Group wished to set.

4. Age Concern Sedgley & District

It was requested that an application to the Working Group that had been refused on 29 August 2006 be resubmitted. The application in the sum of £1,472.50 was for the upgrading of safety and security at the Day Centre in Ettymore Road.

The application was refused initially since it was felt that Age Concern had been well supported by the Committee in the past and that other groups should be given the opportunity to benefit from the funding available.

The Working Group stood by its previous decision and refused turned down the application.

5. Coseley Youth Centre

An application in the sum of £4,195.04 was submitted by Coseley Youth Centre. The centre aims to give young people from the area a safe and secure environment to engage in positive activities in an informal setting that will also allow them to develop personal and social skills.

The funding would be used to purchase various sports and entertainment equipment that it is hoped will maintain current members and attract new ones. Some of the funding will be used to purchase security equipment to ensure that young people feel safe to access and use the centre.

The application was approved pending a discussion with the Youth Centre regarding eligible expenditure.

6. St Andrews United Reform Church

An application in the sum of £7,800 was received from St Andrews United Reform Church for the modernisation of part of the church building so that it could be dedicated to youth groups.

The church are establishing links with local schools and the community and aims to provide a safe and friendly environment for it's members to socialise in.

It was requested that a breakdown of the expenditure be provided as well as whether the church would provide a contribution to the scheme given the balance of funds that were held by the church at the end of 2006. Further quotations for the works would also be needed to ensure most efficient use of funding. It was also queried whether the church should be funding such expenditure.

The application will be reconsidered upon receipt of the information requested.

7. Gornal Athletic Football Club

An application in the sum of £3,500 was received from the club to contribute towards the purchase of a portakabin to provide female changing facilities, a first aid room, shower and toilet.

The club aims to provide the opportunity for young local children to enjoy sport by learning soccer skills with training provided by qualified coaches.

Before making a decision on the application, further investigation is to be undertaken to query what planning permission will be required and to also review whether there were any mobiles available within the council that could be used for this purpose.

8. Dudley North Youth Service

The Working Group discussed an application in the sum of £20,000 for the provision of a skate/bike park.

Inquiries are to be made as to whether planning has been approved for the scheme. DUE are to carry out the background works.

Funding is to be provided subject to planning permission and upon receipt of the balance of funding for the scheme. It was agreed that the allocation would be split across the North Dudley wards.

9. Dudley Caving Club

The Working Group received an application in the sum of £2,258 for the purchase of computer equipment, software and a projector.

The Caving Club undertake cave and mine exploration throughout the major caving/mining regions in England & Wales. The club caters for both experienced and novice cavers. The club also participate in cave/mine call outs (rescues).

This equipment would enable the group to prepare information covering all aspects of caving/mining such as techniques, safety, leadership and first aid. Further to this, the equipment would be used to present the sport to a wider audience within the community through presentations to other local organisations.

The Working Group approved the application.

Finance

10. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.
11. The balance available for allocation in 2006/07 is £164,555, including the allocation for 2006/07 of £40,000.
12. 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	<u>£37,163</u>	<u>£36,528</u>	<u>£26,232</u>	<u>£24,632</u>	<u>£124,555</u>
New allocation for 2006/07	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2006/07	£18,275	£1,771	£2,815	£21,373	£44,234
Balance unallocated	<u>£28,888</u>	<u>£44,757</u>	<u>£33,417</u>	<u>£13,259</u>	<u>£120,321</u>

13. 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 £44,234 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £120,321 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the Meeting on 10 January 07 would reduce this balance by £26,453 (Coseley Youth Centre £4,195, Dudley North Youth Service £20,000 and Dudley Caving club £2,258) to £93,868 if approved.

Law

14. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
15. 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

16. This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Recommendation

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



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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.