
Halesowen Area Committee – 11th March 2009

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. Litterbin at Wesson Gardens, Halesowen

Councillor Jill Nicholls has requested funding for the installation of a new black litterbin to be located on the grassed area in front of 98 to 100 Wesson Gardens, Halesowen. This is a Housing Complex and has been requested by the residents as the area is noted for litter problems. The litter bin will be serviced by the caretakers.

I have, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, instructed our Environmental Management Team to install the litterbin at a cost of £170.00 and have been advised it was installed on 22nd January 2009.

4. Barnardo's Time for Me Project

An application has been received on behalf of the Barnardo's Time for Me Project, who have requested £4,500 to assist with the conversion of attic space at the Source Youth Centre in Barnet Lane into an arts and craft room. This will be for the direct benefit of children and young people who are affected by someone who they live with who misuse drugs or alcohol.

The children and young people benefiting from this facility live borough wide and, as with similar borough wide requests, consideration for funding is being made to the other Area Committees.

The total costs of the works is £12,000 and the total amount requested is £4,500 and therefore, this Committee is being asked to consider a £900 contribution. I am recommending a grant of £900 be approved, subject to a similar contribution being made from the other Area Committees.

5. St. Peter's Church, Lapal

An application has been received from the Church for funding towards the cost of re-surfacing the Church and Hall car parking areas and the Hall access disabled pathway with a tarmacadam surface, costing £34,214. The Church has reserves of £27,224 for the project, but are looking for the remaining balance from the Area Committee.

I believe this grant is worthy of support and am recommending a grant of £5,000 be approved.

6. Cradley Community Welfare Association

An application has been received from the Association for funding towards a replacement boiler and to provide kitchen units where necessary to house the new boiler. The Association's aims are to improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area and also to engender a community spirit. They currently have 100+ members each week attend the Centre.

The Association have received three quotations ranging around £2,500+ and have requested funding from the Committee of £500.00.

I am, therefore, recommending a grant of £500.00 be approved.

7. Halesowen Swimming Club

An application has been received from the Club for funding towards upgrading the facilities, to include new electronic timing, new anti wave lane ropes, back stroke flags and new starting blocks, which, they say, are essential to allow for galas and time trials to push and help in swimmer development and increase awareness of the use of the pool and its facilities to the benefit of the community.

The total cost of these improvements is £13,250 and they have requested £5,000 of Area Committee funding.

The Club currently has 400 members and was founded in 1963 and coaches children from age 5+ through to adulthood with some swimmers aged up to 80. The Club is amongst the foremost swimming clubs in the country in terms of Swim 21 – the ASA version of ClubMark. There is a genuine commitment to continuous improvement and to providing a quality experience for participants.

Having consulted with colleagues who fully support this application, I am recommending a grant of £5,000 be approved.

8. Halesowen Town Colts

An application has been received from Halesowen Town Colts who work with youngsters aged between 6 and 15 from all walks of life, allowing football and exercise to play an active role in their lives and to provide an environment where they can also to make new friends and learn some life skills.

They have requested funding of £280.00 towards the purchase of training cones, hurdles, bibs etc as well as match goal nets and corner flags. The total cost if £560.00.

Having consulted with colleagues who support the application, I am recommending a grant of £280 be approved.

Finance

9. The total available for distribution in 2008/09 was £60,000. Having reviewed the current position with regard to total allocations spent and not spent and earmarked funding, we have a total unallocated of £32,333. Recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations:-

	£	Ward
<u>Grants approved through delegated arrangements:-</u>		
Wesson Gardens litterbin	170	Belle Vale
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>		
Barnardos Time for Me Project	900	All wards
Cradley Community Centre	500	Cradley & Foxcote
St. Peters Church, Lapal	5,000	Halesowen South
Halesowen Swimming Club	5,000	All wards
Halesowen Town Colts	280	All wards
Total	11,850	

Law

10. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
11. 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

12. 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

13. It is proposed that the Area Committee:-
- (a) notes the approval of a grant for the supply and installation of a black litterbin for Wesson Gardens, amounting to £170.00;
 - (b) approves a grant of £900 to the Barnardos Time for Me Project, subject to the other Area Committees approving a similar amount, towards the cost of converting the attic space at Source Youth Centre into an arts and crafts room;
 - (c) approves a grant of £5,000 to St. Peters Church, Lapal towards the cost of resurfacing the Church and Hall car parking areas and the Hall access disabled pathway with tarmac;
 - (d) approves a grant of £500 to Cradley Community Welfare Association towards the cost of a replacement boiler and kitchen unit;
 - (e) approves a grant of £5,000 to Halesowen Swimming Club towards the cost of upgrading the facilities at the Club, to include new electronic timing, new anti wave lane ropes, back stroke flags and new starting blocks.
 - (f) approves a grant of £280 to Halesowen Town Colts towards the cost of football training equipment.



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Mike Williams
Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Mike Williams, Director of Finance
mike.s.williams@dudley.gov.uk
Tel: 01384 814800

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.