
Halesowen Area Committee – 10th March 2010

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 table below summarises the current financial position on uncommitted/unspent capital budget, prior to the approval of bids set out in this report:-

	£
Total allocations 2000/01 to 2009/10	500,000
Less:	
- Spent to date	(427,610)
- Allocated to bidders, but not yet spent (see Appendix 2)	(55,191)
- Town Centre enhancements (£17k)	(17,000)
Available to spend on new bids/earmarks	199

3. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. 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.

St. Clements Court (part of Anchor Trust)

4. An application for capital funding has been received from St. Clements Court Residents Association towards the purchase of a Wii keep fit plus balance board costing around £90.00.
5. St. Clements Court is a sheltered housing scheme under Anchor Trust. They help tenants and non tenants retain their independence. They run exercise classes and their general aims are to give older people a safe and secure environment, helping them remain in their homes by keeping them fit and active as possible.

6. Within the scheme is a social committee who organise activities. Tenants and non tenants help fund these activities by such things as raffles, sales etc. The social committee meet several times a year and once a year there is an annual meeting for voting purposes etc.
7. A community award was won by St. Clements Court because of its 'open door' policy to neighbours so that facilities can be enjoyed and shared.
8. **I have, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, approved St. Clements Court a grant of up to £90.00.**

Friends of Huntingtree Park

9. Members may recall that in January 2009, a grant of up to £5,000 was approved by this Committee towards replacing the current access to the bowling green be moved approximately 30 metres towards Huntingtree Road as two sets of steps were considered to be in a dangerous state of repair and this had been highlighted during a public consultation.
10. The pathway leading to the bowling green area has now been completed.
11. Friends of Huntingtree Park were notified at the end of February 2009 that the Park had been selected as one of five "Family Healthy Hubs" in the Dudley Borough through the Healthy Towns scheme. A major part of the Healthy Towns plans is the redevelopment and extension of the existing building on Huntingtree Park. The extension to the building will necessitate the removal of the steps which were previously planned to renovate as the second part of the previous Area Committee grant. Therefore, there is a balance remaining from the previous grant of £1,322 and the Friends Group have now requested that the remaining funds be used to replace existing seating benches during the Park's redevelopment.
12. **I am seeking Committee's approval to divert the funds not spent on this project £1,322 to the replacement of seating benches.**

Finance

13. The total available to spend on new bids in 2009/10 is now £199.00. Recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations and leave a balance available of **£109** for the remainder of 2009/10.

	£	Ward
<u>Delegation Authority</u>	<u>Up to:-</u>	
St. Clements Court	90.00	Belle Vale
Total	90.00	

Law

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

15. 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

16. It is proposed that subject to satisfactory responses to officer queries the Area Committee :-
- (a) notes my actions in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson in approving St. Clements Court a grant of up to £90.00 towards a Wii fit plus balance board;
 - (b) authorises that funds not spent on the reconstruction of a set of steps on the park and the replacement of steps leading to the bowling green area be redirected (£1,322) towards the purchase of replacement benches for the Friends of Huntingtree Park;



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Bill Baker

Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Bill Baker – Ext 4800

Criteria for Bids/Allocations

- 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 costs.
- e. Consideration should be given to schemes that might generate external funding (i.e. using these budgets as match funding).
- 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.

Appendix 2

Halesowen Area Committee
Allocations not spent over 6 months:-

Year Allocated	Date of Committee approval	6 months from date of approval	Recipient	For:	Amount Allocated & Not Yet Spent (£)	Comments	Recommended to bring back to Centre
2009/10	14th January 2010	14th July 2010	Cradley Then and Now	refurbing of air raid shelter for school/community use	2102.00	20/1/10 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds	
	14th January 2010	14th July 2010	1st Coombs Wood Scouts	towards gas heating installation costs	5000.00	20/1/10 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds	
	14th January 2010	14th July 2010	Howley Grange Scouts	towards kitchen refurbishment	2500.00	20/1/10 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds	
	14th January 2010	14th July 2010	Womens Awareness Association	ICT equipment etc and sewing/overlocker machines	5000.00	20/1/10 - Letter advising of grant - subject to assurances and copy insurance policies about individual items being received and awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Halesowen Asian Elderly Assoc	Additional seating, air conditioning unit, concertina screen	1714.00	Nov 09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Zion Christian Centre	Setting up of a Food Bank	139.55	Nov 09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 14/12/09 - Letter and copy receipts received to the value of £1110.45 (-£139.55)	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Community Transport	Towards new minibus	1000.00	Nov 09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 27/1/10 - Copy receipt and vehicle supporting documentation received. However, vehicle needs to be reinspected to conform with Area Committee recommendations - awaiting feedback from other Area Committee Liaison Officers	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Lutley Community Assoc	Project to upgrade facilities at the Centre	3913.00	Nov 09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 14/12/09 Letter received with thanks. Works to take up to the middle of Feb 10.	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Hope Street Park Friends Group	0-8 year olds play equipment (separate to Play Pathfinder)	5000.00	Advised Parks of funds and instructed them to contact us for Cost Centre in due course	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Cyber Bus Project	Refitting and equipping a replacement Cyber Bus	2000.00	Nov 09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds Dec 09 - call from Co-ordinator - can funds be used for a new generator for the bus - advised fine - just require invoice/receipt as evidence	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Caslon Community Partnership	Additional grant - fencing - community garden project	2500.00	Nov 09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	St Pauls Blackheath Parish Church	Double glazing, cavity wall insulation and light fittings	5000.00	Nov 09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 16/12/09 Letter received with thanks. Arrangements to start work on the Hall - early Jan 2010.	
	3rd September 2009	3rd March 2010	Eritrean Tigre Welfare Association	ICT equipment and storage facilities	3000.00	10/9/09 - Letter advising of grant - subject to further information previously requested being received 3/2/10 - Letter plus receipt for £695.26 received - those funds released but have requested more information before any more funds will be released	
	1st July 2009	1st Jan 2010	Caslon Parent and Toddler Group	Secure storage for prams and buggies	5000.00	7/7/09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 29/1/10 - Contact from Vicky Wood on behalf of the Group - works to commence shortly. Will await invoice in due course	
	1st July 2009	1st Jul 2010 (extension granted)	Caslon Community Partnership	Fencing to secure site	2500.00	7/7/09 - Letter advising of grant, subject to planning permission and further funding to clear overgrowth - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 15/12/09 Letter received requesting extension to 6 month ruling. Final plan and illustrations are being prepared for consultation with the residents backing on to the site and in the absence of any major objections, the Partnership intend to apply for planning permission and to the Community Spaces Fund for support in the New Year - extension to 1/7/10	
1st July 2009	1st May 2010 (extension granted)	Abbey Road Allotment Association	Disabled facilities, raised beds, polytunnels, water supply	5000.00	7/7/09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 15/12/09 - Letter received with thanks. Not successful with Peoples Millions bid. Search for new grants continues (£27k). First job is to clear the site ready for the fencing - could take another month - request to extend the spend deadline by 4 months to allow progress. 17/12/09 - Letter confirming extension to spend deadline to 1st May 2010		
2008/09	12th November 2008	31st May 09	Cradley Town Football Club (in principle)	Disabled facilities	2500.00	30/3/09 - Letter to Mr. Thomas - awaiting receipt of formal Set of Accounts submitted to Football Association 14/7/09 Letter stating if we don't hear from them by end July, will assume NLR and bring back for reallocation 30/7/09 Letter advising all issues 21/10/09 - Letter chasing current position and stated if nothing heard by end October - allocation will be withdrawn. Nov 09 - contact made by Mr. Overton - Consultant Architect trying to sort out regeneration options out for the area. Have advised grant still available for disabled facilities.	
	22nd January 2009		Friends of Huntingtree Park	Replace existing benches - request to March 2010 HAC to divert unspent funds	1322.00	1st May 2009 - expenditure code emailed to DUE Parks staff. However, not all £5k approved requires to be spent and the Friends have requested the remaining balance to fund benches.	
GRAND TOTAL					55190.55		