

North Dudley Area Committee – 9th April 2008

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To confirm that subject to (3) below, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
2. To confirm that, in the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chairman 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

3. 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. The following applications have been received.

4. **Sedgley & District Age Concern**

An application in the sum of £586.14 was received from the above to purchase a multi-function copier, scanner, printer & fax along with connecting cable, toner cartridge and warranty.

The organisation aims to support older people in the Sedgley & District Area to lead independent and fulfilling lives within the local community. The equipment would enable the organisation to produce materials needed by clients when taking part in the activities programme.

It was pointed out that, contained within the current application, were items which could not be classed as capital expenditure, these were the toner and warranty. With this amount deducted from the original amount, the application would in fact be for the sum of £460.48.

Following careful consideration by the Working Group, it was unanimously agreed that the Area Committee be recommended to approve the sum of £460.48 to purchase the printer and cable.

5. Bayer Street Allotments Association

An application in the sum of £4,805.55 was received from the above, towards the repair of fencing due to damage caused by vandals.

The Association believes that repairing the fencing will reduce the damage that vandals have caused to sheds and allotments in recent years.

The working group agree the application in principle, however, the group have requested that additional quotes be obtained to ensure that we are receiving value for money and have reiterated the request to obtain a quote from Dudley MBC.

The working group suggested that the application be deferred and resubmitted to the next working group meeting once the additional information has been obtained.

6. Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre

The aim of the organisation is to improve the life conditions of the inhabitants of Sedgley and the local neighbourhood through training, physical exercise, and other recreational activities.

The centre has submitted an application in the sum of £3,377 towards the provision of disabled toilet facilities.

The working group raised a number of concerns with the application:

- That the organisation is based in a public house
- Possible licensing issues
- Amount of reserves available
- Whether the works would be fully DDA compliant

On the basis that further inquiries need to be made with regards to the issues highlighted, the working group recommends that the application be deferred while further investigation takes place.

7. Sedgley Town Centre

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted to the Area Committee on 30th January 2008 on a proposed Designated Order to declare Sedgley Town Centre a place where the consumption of alcohol would be prohibited.

It was resolved at the meeting that the making of the Designated Order for Sedgley Town Centre be supported and that approval for an capital allocation from the Sedgley Ward budget be made of £2,000 with match funding to come from the Police.

It was identified that additional signage was required, the cost of which would be £1,250, the Working Group recommended that half of the additional cost, being £650, be met from the Sedgley capital budget with the balance to be match funded by the police.

Finance

7. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.
8. The balance available for allocation in 2007/08 is £116,139 including the allocation for 2007/08 of £40,000.
9. 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
Balance available from 2006/07	<u>£14,704</u>	<u>£29,751</u>	<u>£25,876</u>	<u>£5,808</u>	<u>£76,139</u>
New allocation for 2007/08	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2007/08	£6,267	£2,760	£25,093	£8,981	£43,101
Balance unallocated	<u>£18,437</u>	<u>£36,991</u>	<u>£10,783</u>	<u>£6,827</u>	<u>£73,038</u>

10. An approved capital budget of £116,139 is available for 2007/08, including the allocation for the financial year of £40,000. Allocations totalling £43,101 have been approved in this financial year, including £5,150 that was approved under special powers for fencing to be erected at the rear of Central Drive properties and £2,000 that was agreed at the Area Committee meeting on 30th January 2008 for the signage agreed for Sedgley Town Centre Designated Order, leaving a balance of £73,038 to be allocated. The recommendations in the report would reduce this balance by £1,110 (Sedgley & District Age Concern £460 and Sedgley Town Centre £650) to £71,928 if approved.

Law

11. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
12. 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

13. This report takes account of the Council's Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 4 to 5 be approved.



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

Appendix

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.