

Halesowen Area Committee – 4th July 2012

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Area Committee Grants

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the delegated Area Committee grants budget for 2012/ 2013.

Background

2. The five Area Committees are responsible for allocating expenditure from the delegated Area Committee grants budget. In the past, this has been restricted to capital allocations.
3. As part of the revenue budget strategy and setting of the Council Tax for 2012/13, the Council agreed, on 5th March 2012, that Area Committee allocations (totalling £240,000) are to be met from revenue resources and no longer restricted to funding capital projects alone. This gives additional flexibility in respect of the schemes that can be funded, and will also enable groups to bid for funding that have previously been excluded because their activities do not meet the technical definition of capital.
4. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. These are intended to be corporate guidelines and it is ultimately for each Area Committee to decide on individual applications. An earlier report on this agenda proposes the creation of a Grant Allocations Working Group to consider applications and to make recommendations to the Area Committee. This would be in line with the practice of all other Area Committees.
5. The Council has also approved a process for dealing with matters of urgency generally and particularly in the period between Annual Council and the first cycle of meetings. This procedure is included in the Constitution as follows:-

- The Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair (and the relevant Ward Members as appropriate), is authorised to determine any matters of urgency that cannot reasonably be delayed until the next ordinary meeting of the Area Committee subject to details of the action being reported back to the next available meeting of the Area Committee for information.
- In the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chair at the first meeting of the Area Committee in the new municipal year, the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with at least two Members of the Area Committee (being the appointed spokespersons of the political groups represented on the Committee and the relevant Ward Members as appropriate), be authorised to consider and determine any urgent matters. Details of any decisions made will be reported to the first meeting of the Area Committee in the municipal year.

6. I have provided below details of the current financial position on uncommitted/unspent budget. Prior to the consideration of bids referred to in this report, the table below summarises that position:-

	£
Total allocations 2000/01 to 2012/13	650,000
Less:	
- Spent to date (see below)	
- Allocated to bidders, but not yet spent (see Appendix 2)	(568,707)
- Earmarked for Town Centre enhancements	(11,962)
- Earmarked for Empty Shops Grant initiative Cradley/Windmill Hill, Shell Corner and the Stag) (£790 each)	(2,370)
Return and make available for reallocation	68
Available to spend on new bids/earmarks	50,029

7. The spent to date figure above includes a grant of £3,350 to the Friends of Homer Hill Park towards the cost of installing two metal bench and table sets with disability access overhang into a new children's play area. This application was considered at the meeting of the Area Committee on 21st March 2012 and deferred pending further information. Following consultation by email with the members of the Area Committee, I awarded this grant on 3rd April 2012 in order to allow the benches to be

installed before the summer months. It is proposed that Area Committee now ratify this award.

8. Appendix 2 sets out details of unspent allocations.

- There are 4 grants that were approved in the last nine months and revised corporate guidance sets out the initial deadline for claiming at 9 months.
- There are 2 grants that have been claimed, leaving a balance un-required, and it is recommended that the balance be made available to be reallocated.

9. Copies of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

10. Greenhill Youth Centre

An application has been received from the centre for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards a total cost of £6,029 to enable them to install roller shutter doors, to renovate their kitchen area, update ICT equipment and to purchase recreational equipment. The centre has been subject to vandalism in the past. The development of the kitchen area will then be able to accommodate the many visitors to the centre. Updating the ICT equipment will promote further learning at the centre and the purchase of recreational equipment will be used during the holidays giving children and young people access to sports equipment.

11. Members may recall funding agreed to refurbish the kitchen area and computer room in 2006/07 of £5,000 and in 2010/11 of £3,000 for the purchase of ICT equipment.

12. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved*

13. Halesowen Cricket Club

An application has been received from the above club for funding of up to £2,400 towards the total cost of £3,200 for the refurbishment of the toilets to include baby changing facilities. The club promotes cricket and sporting activity amongst the youth of Halesowen, it also provides a community meeting space.

14. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £2,400 should be approved.*

15. Rotary Clubs of Halesowen & Rowley Regis and Hasbury & Cradley

An application has been received from the above for funding of up to £3,500. This is the total cost of advance funding to guarantee the Victorian Fayre event for 2013. Previously they have secured funding from Directorate of the Environment and commercial sources. The clubs provide an opportunity for residents to enjoy a full day of events and to bring the community together.

16. Members may recall funding agreed to supply and construct a purpose built promotional display trailer for static and street collection - raising funds for charitable community needs in 2009/10 of £5,000 and for a marquee in 2011/12 of £1,900.

17. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £3,500 should be approved.*

18. St Peters Church

An application has been received from the above church for funding of up to £4,180 being the total cost for the purchase and fitting of a commercial standard cooker and dishwasher to enable them to open the centre to more of the local community engaging with the elderly and lonely. Local schools also use the centre.

19. Members may recall funding agreed to resurface the car park and enable a disabled pathway to be constructed in 2009/10 of £5,000.

20. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*

21. One grant was approved under delegated powers in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson. This is detailed below.

▪ The Over '50's' Club

An application was received from the group for capital funding for up to £423.00 to enable the purchase of ten chairs to enable the elderly to sit comfortably at meetings. The group brings together the elderly and lonely members of the community to join in meetings where they have a variety of speakers, singers, slide shows etc.

Finance

22. The total available to spend on new bids in 2012/13 is currently £50,029. If all of the applications in this report are approved then a balance of £34,526 will remain.

	£	Ward
<u>Approved under delegated powers</u>		
The Over '50's' Club	423	Halesowen South
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>		
Greenhill Youth Centre	5,000	Halesowen North
Halesowen Cricket Club	2,400	Halesowen South
Rotary Clubs of Halesowen & Rowley	3,500	All Wards
Regis and Hasbury & Cradley		
St Peters Church	4,180	Halesowen South
Total	15,503	

Law

23. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.
24. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

25. 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

26. It is proposed that Area Committee:-

- (a) ratifies the award of grant to the Friends of Homer Hill Park as set out in paragraph 7.
- (b) Agrees that unspent grants be made available for reallocation as set out in Appendix 2.
- (c) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000, towards the total cost of £ for the purchase roller shutter doors, kitchen refurbishment, ICT update and recreational equipment for Greenhill Youth Centre;
- (d) considers authorising a grant of up to £2,400 towards the total cost of £3,200 for the refurbishment of the toilets to include baby changing facilities for Halesowen Cricket Club;
- (e) considers authorising a grant of up to £3,500 being the total cost of advance funding to guarantee the Victorian Fayre event for 2013 for Rotary Clubs of Halesowen & Rowley Regis and Hasbury & Cradley;
- (f) considers authorising a grant of up to £4,180 being the total cost for the purchase and fitting of a cooker and dishwasher (commercial) for St Peters Church.



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Iain Newman –

Area Liaison Officer

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Criteria for Bids/Allocations

- 1.1 The allocation or grant may be spent on “capital” and/or “revenue” schemes:

Capital: one-off expenditure on buying, constructing or improving land, buildings, equipment or vehicles;

Revenue: expenditure on running costs of projects or activities, including staff costs and the purchase of consumables and services from third parties. Priority will be given to one-off, time-limited, or start-up spend, rather than ongoing running costs. The latter should normally be funded by the organisation itself.

- 1.2 Schemes should contribute to the Community Strategy and should not conflict with Council policy.
- 1.3 Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups and should make a difference in the local area.
- 1.4 Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources – e.g. running costs and repair and maintenance of new/improved buildings and equipment.
- 1.5 All expenditure must be in accordance with Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council’s legal powers and demonstrate good value for money.
- 1.6 Members will only consider supporting applications up to a maximum of £5,000 unless there are very exceptional circumstances. Organisations will be encouraged to match fund or seek further funding through other means. Priority will be given to schemes that might generate such funding.

- 1.7 Applications will not be considered from organisations who have previously applied for funding to Area Committees within the previous three years unless there are very exceptional circumstances.
- 1.8 Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the commitment is spent within nine months; otherwise the allocation will be returned back into the available budget and a re-application would be required.
- 1.9 In appropriate circumstances, it may be required that certain items of equipment funded by these allocations are to be made available for use by other organisations.

Appendix 2
Halesowen Area Committee – Unspent Allocations

Recipient	For	Date of Committee Approval	Latest Deadline for Claim	Amount Allocated	Amount not yet Spent	Comments
Tuesday Bowls	Bowls mats	21 March 2012	21 December 2012	514	514	-
Halesowen & Dudley Yemeni Association	2 x PC's	21 March 2012	21 December 2012	1380	1380	-
The Hub	Mobile football trailer	9 November 2011	31 August 2012	5000	5000	
Halesowen in Bloom	Planters etc	9 November 2011	31 August 2012	5000	5000	
Halas Homes	Tables, chairs & computers	9 November 2011	31 August 2012	5000	8	Made available for reallocation
Access in Dudley	2 x digital camera.	3 January 2012	3 October 2012	229.96	60	Made available for reallocation
Grand Total				17,124	11,962	