

North Dudley Area Committee – 25th June 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, and will be considered by the North Dudley Area Committee Capital Allocations Working Group in July 2008.

4. **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 working group suggested that the application be deferred and resubmitted once additional quotes were obtained for the works described

5. **Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre**

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

The working group recommended that the application be deferred whilst investigation/inquiry was made into the following issues:

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

6. West Midlands Fire Service

An application was received from West Midlands Fire Service requesting that each Area Committee contribute £1,613 towards a range of equipment such as protective clothing, drill yard equipment and a P.A. system that would allow them to run a number of F.I.R.E. projects.

These projects are aimed at engaging youngsters with the aims of increasing self-esteem, communication and social skills.

7. Friends Of Silver Jubilee Park

An application in the sum of £5,000 was received from the above to contribute towards the provision of a shelter for people who use the park and to incorporate the multi use games area and skate park. This would complete the final phase of works.

The £2,000 remainder of the funding has been secured from the Liveability Programme "Parks for People Initiative".

8. Coseley Comets Drum and Trumpet Corps

An application in the sum of £6,900 has been received from the Coseley Comets to purchase new musical equipment including drums and trumpets.

The organisation aims to teach discipline and encourage the youngsters to work as part of a team.

9. Coseley Community Education Network

An application in the sum of £4,000 was received from the above to install security fencing and gates to prevent graffiti and other anti-social behaviour.

The organisation aims to promote and support community groups in Coseley East in education and learning activities.

10. All Saints Church Sedgley

An application in the sum of £5,000 was received from the above to convert the existing male toilets to include a disabled toilet.

The church is the main parish church and provides religious Church of England Services to all within the borough.

11. North Dudley Kickz project

An application in the sum of £12,000 was initially submitted in August 2007. A revised application in the sum of £12,337 has now been received. The funding is to be used towards the cost of a mobile pitch for use as part of a wider project with the West Midlands Police and Connections Positive Activities for Young People in the North Dudley area.

The allocation was deferred at the time due to a number of concerns. A response has been received addressing the concerns that were raised at the time.

Finance

12. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations For the Area Committee.
13. The balance available for allocation in 2007/08 is £116,139 including the allocation for 2007/08 of £40,000.
14. 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	£6,382	£2,875	£25,208	£9,746	£44,211
Balance unallocated	<u>£18,322</u>	<u>£36,876</u>	<u>£10,668</u>	<u>£6,062</u>	<u>£71,928</u>

15. An approved capital budget of £116,139 is available for 2007/08, including the allocation for the financial year of £40,000. Allocations totalling £44,211 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 £71,928 to be allocated.

If all of the applications contained within this report are approved the unallocated balance would be reduced by £43,033, leaving the sum of £28,895 to be allocated.

Law

- 16. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
- 17. 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

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

Recommendation

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



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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER
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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.