

North Dudley Area Committee – 28th January 2009

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To confirm that subject to (2) 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. At the meeting of the North Dudley Area Committee on 25th June, 2008, Minute No. 19 (1) authorised the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Capital Allocations Working Group to determine and process all applications received to date, under his delegated powers.
4. 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.
5. St Andrew's Church (Sedgley)

An application in the sum of £5,600 was received from the above to upgrade the heating system in the building. The buildings are used by a number of community groups such as Mothers & Toddlers, Cubs, Scouts and Brownies. The current heating equipment was installed in 1983 and is now in need of replacement.

Following careful consideration by the Working Group, it was agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that the application be refused on the basis that the Church has recently been allocated funding towards installation of a lift.

6. 1st Lower Gornal Scout Group

An application in the sum of £9,200 was received from the above as a contribution to provide disabled shower and toilet facilities.

The group provides facilities in a safe environment for a number of users including Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The disabled facilities would allow disabled members of the community to join the groups and activities that take place on the premises.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that this application be deferred, so that detailed breakdowns of the quotes already provided can be obtained, showing only the works identified on the application.

7. TFKA Coseley Netball Club

An application in the sum of £2,500 was received from the above to purchase training equipment and uniforms for the club.

The group aims to increase participation in sport, and improve education through sport & P.E.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that the application be approved, subject to confirmation of issues raised being provided to the members of the Working Group prior to the North Dudley Area Committee meeting.

Finance

8. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.
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 2007/08	<u>£18,322</u>	<u>£36,876</u>	<u>£10,668</u>	<u>£6,062</u>	<u>£71,928</u>
New allocation for 2008/09	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2008/09	£2,903	£14,979	£4,003	£7,403	£29,288

10. An approved capital budget of £111,928 is available for 2008/09, including the allocation for the new financial year of £40,000.

Allocations totalling £29,288 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £82,640 to be allocated.

The recommendations in this report would reduce the balance by £2,500 (TFKA Coseley Netball Club) to £80,140 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 7 to 14 be noted and the proposals in paragraph 16 and 17 be approved.



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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: Philip Tart

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.