

North Dudley Area Committee – 28 March 2007

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.
 - 1.1 To confirm that subject to (1.2) below, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
 - 1.2 To confirm that, in the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chair 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

2. 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.
3. **St Andrew's United Reform Church**

The Church submitted application in the sum of £19,000 to the Working Group. St. Andrew's offers accommodation for a wide number of groups and organisations welcoming people of all ages.

The funding would be used to provide a lift which would enable the elderly and people with disabilities to access the amenities on the first floor. Currently, the building does not meet the standards set out in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The group supported the application in principle and agreed that they would make an application of £5,000 if the church could find the balance of funding within one year.

4. Coseley Comets Drum & Trumpet Corps

The Coseley Comets are a local youth marching band based in Coseley consisting of local youngsters from the age of 8 to 25 years old. The band aims to encourage team working amongst the group and instil discipline in the youngsters.

The organisation submitted an application to the Working Group in the sum of £4,966.96 for the purchase of musical instruments and uniforms.

The Working Group supported this application and agreed an allocation of £4,396.96 to cover the cost of the musical instruments as the uniforms do not meet the capital criteria.

It was also agreed that the allocation made to the Coseley Comets would be split equally between the Upper Gornal & Woodsetton and Coseley Ward budgets.

5. City Can Cycles

An application in the sum of £3,000 was received from City Can Cycles. The organisation aims to encourage more people to take up cycling linking with key agencies to promote safer cycling and increase health awareness.

The funding will be used to purchase various equipment to upgrade and refurbish cycles that have been donated to City Can Cycles that will then be offered to the community at affordable prices.

The Working Group approved the application and it was agreed that the allocation would be split equally between the Upper Gornal & Woodsetton and Coseley Ward budgets.

6. Sedgley & District Community Association

Sedgley & District Community Association submitted an additional application in the sum of £1,949.97 to the Working Group. This funding was requested for additional building works that are required to allow the extensions to the Community Centre to proceed.

The Working Group fully supported the application.

7. Mature Movers

Mature Movers is an exercise group that aims to improve the physical and mental health of the participants, to improve independence and self-esteem and to encourage the members to socialise.

An application was received by the group in the sum of £401.75 to fund the purchase of exercise equipment and to allow attendance at a drumming workshop.

Whilst the drumming workshop can not be funded from capital, the Working Group approved an allocation of the full sum on the basis that the funding requested for the drumming workshop be used to purchase further exercise equipment.

8. 2nd Lower Gornal (St. James) Scout Group

The Working Group received an application in the sum of £1,279 to carry out electrical works to the scout hut in order to comply with European and safety regulations.

The organisation aims to encourage the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a constructive place in society by providing a scheme of progressive training.

The Working Group agreed that it would meet half the costs of the works in conjunction with the Scout Group.

9. Friends of Priors Mill Park

An application in the sum of £5,000 was received by the Working Group from the Friends of Priors Mill Park towards pathway and fencing works to improve the security of the park.

The organisation aims to improve the park area for all people and promote wider use of the park within the community.

The Working Group deferred the application pending further consultation with colleagues in Leisure and further enquiries as to how the remaining £31,000 contribution to the works is to be funded.

10. Upper Gornal & Woodsetton Ward Members

An application in the sum of £2,550 was received from the Ward members for the provision of fencing to secure the area of the Chad Road/Tipton Road embankment.

The area has become a hot spot for anti-social behaviour with youths damaging property, cars and walls. Pupils of a nearby school also use the embankment as a short cut although this is not a public right of way.

The Working Group fully supports this application.

11. Turls Hill and Swanbrook Valley Residents Association

An e-mail was circulated at the working group from the Vice Chair of the residents association. The e-mail requested a further meeting with members be arranged to discuss the possibility of an additional funding allocation for the gates/fencing project that is currently underway.

The Association has secured an allocation of £25,000 on the basis that the Association find match funding of 10% (£2,500).

This item will be deferred until further meetings have taken place.

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 2006/07 is £164,555, including the allocation for 2006/07 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
Total available for 2006/07	<u>£37,163</u>	<u>£36,528</u>	<u>£26,232</u>	<u>£24,632</u>	<u>£124,555</u>
New allocation for 2006/07	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2006/07	£27,261	£9,029	£7,815	£26,373	£70,478
Balance unallocated	<u>£19,902</u>	<u>£37,499</u>	<u>£28,417</u>	<u>£8,259</u>	<u>£94,077</u>

15. An approved capital budget of £164,555 is available for 2006/07 (This includes a saving on the Sedgley Christmas lights 2005 allocation in the sum of £1,099 that has been added back to the Sedgley Ward budget, plus the new allocation for 2006/07). Allocations totalling £70,478 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £94,077 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the Meeting on 07 would reduce this balance by £17,938 (£4,396.96 Coseley Comets, £5,000 St Andrew's United Reform Church, £1,949.97 Sedgley & District Community Association, £639.50 2nd Lower Gornal Scouts Group, £3,000 City Can Cycles, £401.75 Mature Movers and £2,550 Upper Gornal & Woodsetton Ward Members) to £76,139 if approved.

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 Equal Opportunities Policy.

Recommendation

- 19. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 3 to 7 be approved.



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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.