

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 7TH JULY 2005

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

TITLE – CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider applications for funding from this year's Capital Allocation budget and to update Members on progress to date.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Area Committee at its meeting on the 8th April 2003 considered the criteria for allocation of its capital budget, confirmed the existing criteria and asked the Working Group also to consider an additional criteria "one-off expenditure relating to projects which had community benefit".

Criteria:

- (a) The allocation 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 costs.
- (e) Consideration should be given to schemes that might generate external funding (i.e., using these budgets as match funding).
- (f) Schemes which support the Priority Neighbourhood Themes.
- (g) Priority should be given to schemes which promote social inclusion.

(h) Would fund one-off funding for projects with clear community benefit.

2.2 At the Working Group meeting on 9 June 2005, applications from 5 organisations were considered. The outline of these and the recommendations of the Working Group are set out below.

Application 1/05 Brockmoor Community Centre

This application is for £7,000 for the installation of CCTV to improve security and to purchase essential equipment to allow the centre to operate. The application appears to meet the approval criteria. The working Group recommendation is to support this application.

Application 2/05 Belle Vue Grounce Force

This application is for £4,000 to part fund the refurbishment of the sculptures and the path at Belle Vue Sculpture Trail. Detailed estimates have been provided for the repairs to the path and it is proposed that the sculptures would be refurbished by volunteers.

The Working Group recommendation is to support the application subject to the applicant demonstrating their ability to maintain the trail in the future.

Application 3/05 Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley

This application is for £7,988 for the provision of a public address system for the church to enable it to be utilised effectively by community groups. The Working Group support this application subject to receipt of details of sufficient usage by community groups and local organisations.

Application 4/05 Stourbridge Radio Group

This application is for £10,000 towards fitting out and furnishing of premises for a new community radio station. A parallel application has been submitted to Stourbridge Area Committee for £5,000 to purchase radio equipment and to other funders.

The Working Group were concerned about the group's viability and therefore recommend deferral to obtain a copy of the group's business plan.

Application 5/05 Dudley Dyslexia Association

This application is for £2,000 for the purchase of computers to support the group's work. The secretary and chairperson of the association made a short presentation to the Working Group who strongly support this application and recommend approval.

3.0 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 That Members confirm the criteria for allocation of the budget.
- 3.2 That Members consider the recommendations from the Working Group as set out in paragraph 2.2

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1 The delegated budget allocation of £50,000 is funded from the Council's mainstream capital resources with a roll forward of £27,086 from 2004/5. The available budget for this year is therefore £77,086.

5.0 LAW

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

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 The proposals take account of the Council's policy relating to equal opportunities.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the proposals set out in Section 3.0 be approved.



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Area Liaison Officer

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Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-