
DELEGATED CAPITAL BUDGET

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the latest position with regard to the Capital Budget Allocation and to suggest outline allocation for 2003/04.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting of 2nd April 2003 the Committee agreed that steps would be taken to promote the availability of funding and the following action has so far been taken:-
- a. letters have been sent to a wide range of Community and Voluntary Groups, Schools and other organisations in Halesowen and Cradley
 - b. appropriate media releases have been issued
- 2.2 As at 31st March 2003 the following amounts had been earmarked but not yet allocated to specific projects:-

	£
For Community Plan Initiatives	25,000
Youth Provision – Skateboard Facilities	10,000
Community and Voluntary Groups	2,480
(see paragraph 2.5)	

	37,480

- 2.3 The total amount available for allocation in 2003/04 is :-

	£
2003/04 Allocation	50,000
Unallocated for 2002/03	12,000

	62,000

For planning purposes, it would be helpful if the Committee could again approve outline allocations, and following discussions I suggest the following for consideration:-

	£,000
Further allocation for Local Community Plan Initiatives (say)	15
Town Centre Enhancements, Including Old Council House (say)	25
Community and Voluntary Groups	10
Unallocated Contingency	12

	62

- 2.4 It has been the Committee's practice to delegate authority to me, in consultation with the Chairman and a representative from the Opposition Group, to agree requests from Community and Voluntary Groups for small grants, and this arrangement has worked well. I am recommending it should continue in 2003/04.
- 2.5 There are two outstanding requests for grant support which could not be dealt with using the delegated arrangements:-
- Lutley Primary School** – propose to expand their existing accommodation to provide community facilities and an adult learning centre, and request £2000 to cover the cost of test drilling to establish site conditions etc. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning supports the request and I recommend it be approved.
 - The Zion Network, Little Cornbow** – request a grant of £780 to enable the Toddler Group and Kids Club to purchase play equipment specifically suited to children with special needs. The Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning (*Community Education*) supports the request and I recommend it be approved.
- 2.6 The criteria against which bids/allocations should be considered are set out in Appendix A.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Area Committee:-
- notes the action taken to publicise the availability of capital funding
 - considers the proposed outline allocations as set out in paragraph 2.3

- c. authorises the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and a representative from the Opposition Group, to consider and agree where appropriate, requests for funding from Community and Voluntary Groups
- d. approve a grant of £2,000 to Lutley Primary School and a grant of £780 to the Zion Network for the purposes set out in paragraph 2.5

4.0 Finance

- 4.1 The total available for distribution in 2003/04 is £62,000. The cost of the proposed grants to Lutley Primary School and the Zion Network can be met from the allocations for Community and Voluntary Groups.

5.0 Legal

- 5.1 The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
- 5.2 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.

6.0 Equal Opportunities

- 6.1 This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee approves the proposals set out in Section 4 of this report.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Requests for funding from Lutley Primary School and The Zion Network.

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Area Liaison Officer

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Criteria for Bids/Allocations

- 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 and Council Plans 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 on-going revenue costs.
- e. Consideration should be given to schemes that might generate external funding (*i.e. using these budgets as match funding*).