
Halesowen Area Committee – 12th November 2008

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To recommend grants from the Committee's Capital Budget Allocation and associated matters.

Background

2. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in the Appendix. The Area Committee has previously agreed that contributions from the budget will be limited to £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. A copy of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.
3. Providence Methodist Church – Colley Gate
Providence Methodist Church work with the community across all denominations and faiths or non-faiths. Last year they started a drop-in evening for teenagers to provide somewhere for them to shelter and talk. They currently have around 60 members.

The Church has requested funding of £3,900 against a project costing £5,400 to provide fencing at both ends of the driveway, to close off an escape route that vandals have used. The resulting enclosed area they wish to develop into a Peace Garden, which will be open during service times for the community to use. The latest set of accounts for the Church show reserves of just under £2,500.

4. Litterbin – Pickersleigh Close, Halesowen
Councillor Jill Nicholls has requested funding on behalf of the local residents/tenants for the installation of a new black litterbin for outside the flats in Pickersleigh Close. The area is noted for litter problems, broken glass etc. The cost of installing the bin is around £200.00 and once installed would be serviced and maintained by the caretaker responsible for the area.

I have, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, instructed our Environmental Management Team to arrange the installation as soon as

possible.

5. Barnardos – Dudley Community ROUTES

The organisation provides various services to those in the local community, including a Girls Group for 8-13 year olds, educational classes for women in the community as well as providing other services to young people who are either affected by domestic abuse, substance misuse and an information service to prevent child sexual abuse.

Some of the services operating under the Dudley Community ROUTES umbrella receive an amount of funding from various sources, including Dudley MBC. However, the running costs of the venue at Barrack Lane are supported by voluntary funds allocated to Barnardos from the national office.

They are seeking capital funding of £720.00 for a vacuum cleaner, which is currently taped together to prevent the hose from splitting, a TV/DVD combination unit, which will assist with one-to-one work with young people who receive sessions to talk about domestic violence and also be used for training purposes and a four drawer filing cabinet for locking away confidential files.

I am, therefore, recommending a grant of £720.00 be approved.

6. Air Training Corps 223 (Halesowen) Squadron

The ATC aims to foster the spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership and good citizenship to learn new skills, elevate personal self esteem and challenge physical fitness to boys and girls aged 13 to 18. The Group meets on two evenings each week and the leaders provide a varied and well planned range of activities. There are currently 32 cadets, 6 staff and 12 on the Committee.

The Committee and Squadron are actively trying to raise funds to replace the minibus, as their current minibus is beginning to need expensive maintenance. A minibus is vital to the Squadron if the leaders are to be able to continue to offer the huge range of opportunities and experiences they do at present. They regularly transport the cadets and equipment to take part in activities and sports at various venues, flying and gliding training and other events.

They have already raised £1,322 by doing a bag-pack and hope to make another £1,000 through a sponsored event in September and a raffle in October.

Having consulted with colleagues, who support their request, I am recommending a grant of £5,000 be approved, subject to the remainder of the cost being met by the ATC.

7. Cradley Town Football Club/Beeches Social Club

This is an application which was first submitted last May from the owner of Cradley Town Football Club for funding for the provision of disabled toilet facilities at the Club to serve both spectators and users of the Social Club/bar. The total cost of the work is just under £5,000 and the Club says it has no reserves or funding it can put to the project itself.

Following a visit to the site last June to discuss the original application, I asked for further information, some of which has now been provided. In order to make progress, I have discussed the application with the Chairman. I am recommending the approval in principle of a sum of £2,500, subject to the Club raising match funding and subject to the provision of further details about the membership of the Social Club and further financial information.

Finance

8. The total available for distribution in 2008/09 is £60,000, with just over £20,170 being allocated this year to date. Recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations:-

	£	Ward
<u>Grants approved through delegated arrangements:-</u>		
Pickersleigh Close, Litterbin	200	Belle Vale
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>		
Providence Methodist Church	3,900	Cradley & Foxcote
Dudley Community ROUTES – Barnardos	720	Cradley & Foxcote
Air Training Corps (Halesowen)	5,000	All Wards
Cradley Town Football Club	2,500	Cradley & Foxcote and Hayley Green & Cradley South
Total	12,320	

Law

9. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
10. 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

11. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendations

12. It is proposed that the Area Committee:-
- (a) approves a grant of £3,900 for the Providence Methodist Church towards the cost of providing fencing at both ends of the driveway to deter anti-social behaviour, which will be developed into a Peace Garden for community use;
 - (b) notes my actions in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson in approving an allocation of £200 for a new black litterbin outside the flats in Pickersleigh Close;
 - (b) approves a grant of £720.00 for a vacuum cleaner, a TV/DVD combination unit and a four drawer filing cabinet for Dudley Community ROUTES – Barnardos;
 - (c) approves a grant of £5,000 to the Air Training Corps 223 (Halesowen) Squadron towards the cost of a replacement minibus, subject to the remaining funds being raised by the ATC;
 - (d) approves in principle, a grant of £2,500 to Cradley Town Football Club towards the provision of disabled toilet facilities for use by spectators and users of the Beeches Social Club, subject to the Club raising match funding and provides further financial and other information.



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Mike Williams
Area Liaison Officer

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Criteria for Bids/Allocations

The Area Committee has previously agreed that contributions from the budget will be limited to £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. Spending proposals are invited from members of the Area Committee, the public, representative organisations and Council directorates and each proposal is assessed against the following 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 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 cost to the Council.
- e. Consideration should be given to schemes that might generate external funding (i.e. using these budgets 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 allocation must normally be claimed within six months.