

North Dudley Area Committee – 2nd December 2009

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To consider applications for a capital allocation from the North Dudley Area Committee's delegated capital budget.

Background

2. At the meeting of the North Dudley Area Committee on 8th April 2009, Minute No. 83 (1 and 2) authorised that:
 - a. the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
 - b. 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.
3. 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.

Applications

4. **Coseley Cricket Club**

An application in the sum of £4,485 was received from the above to purchase a new artificial wicket.

Coseley Cricket Club foster and promote the sport of cricket at all levels within the community and within the sport, providing opportunity for recreation, coaching and competition. Membership of the club is open to any person.

The existing artificial wicket is approximately 15 years old and is in a state of disrepair and unsafe for use.

The artificial wicket is used for net practice for both adult and junior sections of the club and for junior matches. In order to attract more junior members it is considered essential that the wicket is replaced as soon as possible.

The Working Group considered the application and recommended that the application be refused.

5. Sedgley Youth

An application in the sum of between £5,250 and £7,495 was received from the above to purchase a 12/16 seater minibus (second hand) for the collection of its youth and to provide transport to meet and engage with other youth organisations, participate in football / cricket matches and for its band to attend and play at venues across the Borough.

The organisation provide a safe, life enhancing venue and activities for young people (11-18 year old) including drama, music lessons and sports such as football and cricket. Their aim is to demonstrate to the youth of Sedgley a purpose for the betterment of local community.

The Working Group considered the application and recommended that the application be refused at this time.

6. Lake Street Methodist Church

An application in the sum of £5,000 was received from the above to help fund the redevelopment of the Church Hall and main building, including improved disabled access and toilet facilities, a new link corridor and interior works to provide a more modern form of worship and to widen flexibility for other uses.

The Church focuses on worship, evangelism, discipleship, togetherness and community engagement. It has a particular concern for young people and wishes to develop the church as a Community Church Centre, providing various counselling services including debt management and drug abuse support.

The whole project cost is forecast to exceed £170,000 with the balance of funding from grants awarded and local fund raising efforts.

The Working Group considered the application and recommended that the application be refused at this time.

7. Priory Park Amateur Boxing Club

An application in the sum of £4,850 was received from the above for new changing rooms and toilet facilities.

The gym is located in the Castle and Priory area and provides recreational and leisure facilities, in particular boxing facilities, for people living in Dudley and neighbouring boroughs. It has 45 members, of which approximately 20 are from the North Dudley area.

The Working Group considered the application and recommended that the application be deferred, pending consideration by Central Dudley Area Committee.

8. 1st Lower Gornal St James Rainbows

An application in the sum of £1,200 was received from the above for the purchase of various ICT equipment, including a laptop, projector, camera and multifunctional printer.

By providing fun, interesting and challenging activities the organisation enables girls and young women to fulfil their potential and to take an active and responsible role in society. It currently has approximately 15 members.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application.

9. Sedgley Shopkeepers

An application in the sum of £5,000 was received from the above towards the purchase and installation of Christmas Lights in Sedgley.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application.

10. Sedgley in Bloom

An application in the sum of £2,624.55 plus installation was received from the above for improved signage in Sedgley.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application, subject to the purchase and installation of signs being undertaken by the Directorate of Urban Environment.

11. Time Expired Grants

There are currently four capital allocations that have exceeded the agreed timeframe within which an organisation is expected to claim the grant:

- 1st Lower Gornal Scout Group; awarded £4,200 (Apr 09)
- Upper Gornal Pensioners Club; awarded £1,000 (Apr 09)
- Coseley Youth Centre; awarded £3,957.16 (Apr 09)
- Gornal Community Fun Day; awarded £2,118.96 (Apr 09) (but have claimed only £1,843.07)

The Working Group considered each of the above awards and recommend that the Area Committee approve:

- the grant award to 1st Lower Gornal Scout Group be extended for 6 months.

- o that any decision re. Upper Gornal Pensioners Club is deferred for confirmation of status of works.
- o that the grant award to Coseley Youth Centre is extended for 12 months.
- o that the balance of funds awarded to Gornal Community Fun Day (being £275.89) is returned to the capital allocations fund

Finance

12. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.
13. The following shows allocations approved to date, and the budget remaining:

	Coseley East Ward	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward	Gornal Ward	Sedgley Ward	Total
Undistributed balance 09/10 brought forward	<u>25,437</u>	<u>33,775</u>	<u>20,805</u>	<u>11,788</u>	<u>91,805</u>
New allocation for 09/10	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000
Awarded 09/10:					
April 09	(8,322)	(1,285)	(7,988)	(1,552)	(19,147)
June 09	(791)				(791)
September 09	(4,930)	(3,329)	(1,050)	(2,125)	(11,434)
Returned (time expired)				5,000	5,000
Undistributed balance	<u>21,394</u>	<u>39,161</u>	<u>21,767</u>	<u>23,111</u>	<u>105,433</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid					<u>20,542</u>
Grants paid 09-10					<u>26,025</u>
Total					<u>152,000</u>
Authorised capital budget					<u>152,000</u>
Considered this meeting:					
Grants	<u>(5,997)</u>	<u>(1,513)</u>	<u>(6,512)</u>	<u>(14,388)</u>	<u>(28,410)</u>
Return – time expired etc	<u>3,957</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>5,338</u>		<u>9,433</u>

14. An approved capital budget of £152,000 is available for 2009/10

The undistributed balance is currently £105,433. The recommendations in this report would reduce that balance by £8,550.

Law

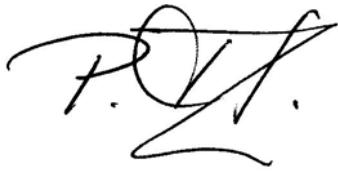
15. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

Equality Impact

16. This report takes account of the Council's Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

17. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 4 to 11 be ratified.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Tart', with a large circular flourish above the 'T'.

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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: Philip Tart

Appendix A

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.