

**Halesowen Area Committee – 14th 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 and report back on issues outstanding from the last meeting.

**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. Fatherless Barn Evangelical Church – Over 60s Group  
An application has been received from the recently established Over 60's Group at the Fatherless Barn Evangelical Church. The Church has spent almost £3,000 in modernising the kitchen, but are still in need of a cooker and a dishwasher. They have requested funding amounting to £1,000 for these purchases. Having consulted with colleagues, I have, in consultation with the Chairman and Cllr. Body approved a grant of £1,000.
4. Greenhill Youth Centre  
An application was submitted to the last meeting of the Committee requesting £5,000 to enable refurbishment works to be carried out at the Greenhill Youth Centre in the kitchen area and in the computer room. The application was approved in principle, subject to full details being submitted to this meeting.

The proposed work will create a dual purpose community space and improved kitchen facilities for use by young people, voluntary and community groups, the local police and others.

Having consulted colleagues in the Directorate of Children's Services, who fully support the application, I am recommending a grant of £5,000.

5. Quinton Methodist Church  
An application has been received from the Church for assistance towards the provision of disabled toilet facilities, to encourage greater community use of the facilities and satisfy Disability Discrimination Act requirements. The Church is attended by a significant number of Halesowen residents. The total cost of the scheme is approximately £10,000, and they have requested an amount of £5,000 from the Area Committee. The Church are also applying for an equivalent amount

of grant aid from Birmingham City Council.

Although the request seems worthy of the Committee's support, it has not yet been possible to undertake a detailed evaluation and site visit. I am, therefore, recommending that the request be approved, in principle, subject to further evaluation and a similar level of grant being awarded by Birmingham City Council and that the decision to award a grant be delegated to me, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body.

6. Lutley Community Association

A request for funding has been received from the Association to cover the cost of replacing the lighting in the main hall at the Community Centre.

The present lights are over 40 years old and obtaining replacement tubes for them is becoming increasingly difficult and will soon be no longer available. In addition they are expensive to run and consume high levels of electricity.

The Association would like to replacement them with more environmentally friendly lights which are also cheaper to run and for which replacement fittings will be available.

The cost of the replacement lighting amounts to just under £1,990 and I am recommending for approval a grant of this amount.

**Finance**

7. The recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations:-

	£
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>	
Greenhill Youth Centre	5,000.00
Quinton Methodist Church	5,000.00
Lutley Community Association	1,990.00
<u>Grants approved through delegated arrangements:-</u>	
Fatherless Barn Over 60s Group	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,990.00</b>

**Law**

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

9. 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

10. 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

11. It is proposed that the Area Committee:-
- (a) notes my action, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body, in approving a grant of £1,000 to the Fatherless Barn Evangelical Church Over 60s Group for funding towards a new cooker and dishwasher, following the recent modernization of their kitchen area;
  - (b) approves a grant of £5,000.00 to the Greenhill Youth Centre for funding towards the refurbishment works to be carried out at the Centre in the kitchen area and in the computer room;
  - (c) approves a grant of £5,000.00, in principle, to the Quinton Methodist Church for funding towards the provision of disabled toilet facilities, subject to further evaluation and a similar level of grant being approved by Birmingham City Council and that the decision to award a grant be delegated to the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body;
  - (d) approves a grant of £1,990.00 to the Lutley Community Association for funding towards replacement lighting in the main hall.



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**Mike Williams**  
**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*).