

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

North Dudley Area Committee – 29 June 2005

Report of the North Dudley Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose

1. The purposes of the report are:
 - to inform the Committee of the financial position relating to capital allocations by the North Dudley Area Committee.
 - to advise the Area Committee of applications considered by the Working Group.
 - to seek the Area Committee's agreement to the recommendations made by the Working Group at their meeting on 7th June 2005.
 - to summarise the progress made to date in respect of the approved capital allocations.

Background

2. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers applications for funding according to criteria agreed by the Area Committee. In summary, applications are required to be made by *bona fide* community groups; that applications be for capital or one-off expenditure; that appropriate safeguards are put in place to ensure that the funding is properly used.
3. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers representations made by Ward Councillors on applications, which may be accepted, accepted but at a reduced amount, referred back for further discussions with the applicant, or refused.
4. From time to time advertisements will be placed in the local press advertising the availability of the funding and the criteria for allocation.
5. The balance available for allocation in 2005/06 is £154,291, including the New Year allocation of £40,000.
6. The following table indicates the allocations approved to-date, and the budget remaining.

	Coseley East Ward	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward	Gornal Ward	Sedgley Ward	Total
Total available for 2005/06	<u>£42,849</u>	<u>£42,849</u>	<u>£39,207</u>	<u>£29,386</u>	<u>£154,291</u>
Allocations Paid in 2005/06 – from meeting in March 2005.	£3,878	£3,732	£2,509	£2,509	£12,628
Balance unallocated	<u>£38,971</u>	<u>£39,117</u>	<u>£36,698</u>	<u>£26,877</u>	<u>£141,663</u>

Recommendations of the Working Group meeting 7th June 2005

7. Senior Citizens Enterprise Woodworking Group.

This grant application was to enable the purchase of additional woodworking machinery for the Group's workshop – a sanding machine, mortise machine, planer/thickness machine and an electric wetstone.

This woodworking group operates out of the Meadows Road Youth and Venture site in Wrens Nest Road, which is located in the Central Dudley area. The Working Group agreed to forward the application to the Central Dudley Area Committee and inform the applicant accordingly.

8. Senior Citizens Happy Hour – Gornal Ward

This group of Senior Citizens meet in the Royal British Legion in Lower Gornal. They applied for a grant of £250 - £400 for the purchase of cups, mugs, plates, spoons, boiler, teapots, coffee pot and micro tea towels.

The applicants had been asked to provide 2 estimates and a copy of their accounts and Constitution to support their application but these had not been received. In view of this and the fact this particular group had received a grant from the Committee for similar equipment just 2 years ago, the Working Group decided to reject the application.

9. 1st Upper Gornal (St. Peter's) Scout Group – Gornal Ward

This scout group, who meet at St. Peter's Parish Hall, applied for a grant of £1,110.38 to purchase a photocopier, which they would share with the Guides, Sunday School and Church.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £1,110.38.

10. Age Concern – Sedgley & District

This application was for a £5,000 contribution towards the replacement of a minibus.

The Working Group considered that they had supported Age Concern on a number of projects in the past and on this occasion would reject the application.

11. North Dudley Councillors & Sedgley Police – All North Dudley Wards

This application was for the purchase of bicycles for the use of Beat Police to cover the ground more quickly and be more visible to the public. The grant of £5,400, which would be match funded by Sedgley police, would buy 9 bicycles at an estimated cost of £600 each.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £5,400.

12. Sedgley Councillors – Sedgley Ward

Sedgley Councillors submitted this application, for an extension to the Christmas Lights - festoon lights in trees in the old graveyard alongside the main road – at a cost of £2,400.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £2,400.

Proposals

13. It is recommended that the Committee endorse the proposals above.

Finance

14. An approved Capital budget of £154,291 is available for 2005/06. Allocations totalling £12,628 have been paid out in this financial year, leaving a balance of £141,663 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the meeting on the 7th June 2005 would reduce this balance by a further £ 8,910 to £132,753, if approved.

Law

15. The Council's budgeting process is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Equal Opportunities

16. These proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunity policies.

Recommendation

17. That the proposals set out in paragraph 13 of this report be approved.



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North Dudley Area Committee Liaison Officer

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