

North Dudley Area Committee – 8th April 2009

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To confirm that subject to (2) below, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
2. To confirm that, 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.

Background

3. At the meeting of the North Dudley Area Committee on 25th June, 2008, Minute No. 19 (1) authorised the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Capital Allocations Working Group to determine and process all applications received to date, under his delegated powers.
4. 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.
5. Sedgley & District Community Association

An application in the sum of £9,769.40 towards the cost of connecting a storm water drain and construction of a drain run had previously been submitted to the Working Group.

The Working Group had recommended at the time that the application be refused on the grounds that the Association has had several applications approved previously.

Sedgley & District Community Association have provided further information to support their application but the Working Group recommend to the Area Committee that they uphold their previous decision and that the application be refused on the basis of previous support.

6. Barnardo's Time For Me Project

An application has been submitted to each Area Committee in the sum of £900 from the above as a contribution to provide a fire escape from the attic, a sink and for tables and chairs so that the attic arts and crafts room can be used by all of the groups that attend The Source Youth Centre.

The Time For Me Project helps and supports children and young people who live in the Dudley borough who are affected by someone they live with that misuse drugs or alcohol. The project provides children and young people with one to one support in schools and also run two group sessions per week at The Source Youth Centre.

The Group questioned whether provision of fire evacuation facilities in its own buildings was the responsibility of the Authority and whether any funds would be available for this purpose.

The Working Group recommended that the application be approved in principle pending clarification of the above issue.

7. Coseley Youth Centre

An application in the sum of £3,957.16 was received from the above to purchase games equipment, furniture and a new laptop.

The Youth Centre work with young people to involve them in positive activities and aim to support them through the transition from childhood to adulthood.

The Working Group requested that additional quotes be obtained for the items listed on the application. In addition, the storage arrangements for the laptop were also discussed due to Data Protection requirements.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that the application be deferred until the new financial year when the building works on the new Youth Centre will be completed and also subject to confirmation that the laptop would be securely stored. Up to date projections for the equipment will be required.

8. 1st Lower Gornal Scout Group

An application in the sum of £9,200 was previously received from the above as a contribution to provide disabled shower and toilet facilities.

The group provides facilities in a safe environment for a number of users including Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The disabled facilities would allow disabled members of the community to join the groups and activities that take place on the premises.

The Scout Group have since obtained additional quotes that have been presented to the Working Group. It was also noted that the Group had some surplus funds available in their account.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that a contribution of £4,200 be made to the 1st Lower Gornal Scout Group in light of the balances held by the organisation.

9. Upper Gornal Pensioners Club

The Club provides a weekly social event for elderly people in the Gornal area and also organise trips for the members.

The Club have submitted an application in the sum of £2,000 to contribute towards refurbishment of the entrance hall including plastering and painting.

As some of the works identified in the proposal are of a revenue nature, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that a contribution of £1,000 be approved to contribute to the capital works.

10. Monday Friendship Hour

An application in the sum of £300 was submitted by the above as a contribution towards purchasing a food mixer.

The organisation aims to provide hot cooked meals for a small charge, in a warm and safe environment to the elderly people in the community.

The Working Group supported the application and recommend that the Area Committee approve the sum of £300.

11. 50 + Group

An application has been received from the above requesting an allocation to purchase some new tables.

The Group aims to promote the well being of older people and to help make life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

The Working Group queried whether the tables would be available for use by all users of the Community Centre and also noted that the Group had not noted whether they required a full or partial contribution to the cost of the tables.

Following consideration by the Working Group, it was agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that the application be deferred while the issues identified above are investigated.

12. Sedgley Park Football Club

An application has been received on behalf of the above in the sum £250 towards the purchase of training equipment e.g. footballs, posts, hurdles, rain tops, winter wear etc.

The Club aims to provide football training with a view to improving the health of the members as well as aiming to teach respect, responsibility, conduct and reliability.

The Working Group noted that there were no quotations provided for any of the items required and also that the clothing items listed in the application are of a revenue nature. In addition, there was no financial information presented by the club.

In light of the comments made above the Working Group recommend to the Area Committee that the application be deferred while further information is obtained.

13. Gornal Community Fun Day Planning Committee

An application in the sum of £2,118.96 was received from the above towards the purchase of sound equipment, gazebos and an advertising banner to be used on the fun day. The equipment will also be made available to other voluntary organisations.

The main aim of the organisation is to plan and organise a community fun day involving local residents and community groups for the benefit of the local community.

The working Group noted that the Committee's application included the higher quote for the sound system and also that the banner would be revenue expenditure.

In light of the issues noted above, it was agreed by the Working Group to recommend to the Area Committee that the sum of £1,553.05 be approved on the basis that the Committee opt for the cheaper sound system.

14. St. Peters Church

An application in the sum of £1,504 was submitted by the above for the purchase of a new range cooker.

The Church is a place of worship with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for all people.

The Working Group supported the application and recommend that the Area Committee approve the sum of £1,504.

15. Coseley athletic Bowling Club

An application in the sum of £4,140 was submitted by the above for the installation of an all weather shelter with disabled access at the bowling green.

The Bowling Club aim to promote the sport at a local level. The sport is one which allows older people and those less physically able to compete equally. They aim to provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere at the club. The Club feel that the improved facilities would encourage more members of the local community to take up the sport.

Following careful consideration by the working Group, it was agreed to recommend to the Area Committee that the application be approved.

Finance

16. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.

17. 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
Balance available from 2007/08	<u>£18,322</u>	<u>£36,876</u>	<u>£10,668</u>	<u>£6,062</u>	<u>£71,928</u>
New allocation for 2008/09	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2008/09	£2,903	£14,979	£4,003	£7,403	£29,288
Balance unallocated	<u>£25,419</u>	<u>£31,897</u>	<u>£16,665</u>	<u>£8,659</u>	<u>£82,640</u>

18. An approved capital budget of £111,928 is available for 2008/09, including the allocation for the new financial year of £40,000.

Allocations totalling £29,288 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £82,640 to be allocated.

The recommendations in this report would reduce the balance by £13,597 (£900 Barnardo's Time for Me Project, £4,200 Lower Gornal Scout Group, £1,000 Upper Gornal Pensioners Club, £300 Monday Friendship Hour, £1,553 Gornal Community Fun Day, £4,140 Coseley Athletic Bowling Club, £1,504 St. Peters Church) to £69,043 if approved.

Law

19. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
20. 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

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

Recommendation

22. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 7 to 14 be noted and the proposals in paragraph 16 and 17 be approved.



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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: Philip Tart

Appendix

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.