

Halesowen Area Committee – 7th November 2012

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Area Committee Grants

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the delegated Area Committee grants budget for 2012/ 2013.

Background

2. The five Area Committees are responsible for allocating expenditure from the delegated Area Committee grants budget. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. These are intended to be corporate guidelines and it is ultimately for each Area Committee to decide on individual applications.
3. I have provided below details of the current financial position on uncommitted/unspent budget. Prior to the consideration of bids referred to in this report, the table below summarises that position:-

	£
Total allocations 2000/01 to 2012/13	650,000
Less:	
- Spent to date (see below)	(585,717)
- Allocated to bidders, but not yet spent (see Appendix 2)	(20,202)
- Earmarked for Town Centre enhancements	(17,000)
- Earmarked for Empty Shops Grant initiative Cradley/Windmill Hill, Shell Corner and the Stag) (£790 each)	(2,370)
Return and make available for reallocation	5,122
Available to spend on new bids/earmarks	29,833

4. The spend to date figure above includes a grant of £9,815 to the Earls Gymnastics Club towards the purchase of specially discounted equipment used in the Olympic Games. Due to the equipment being available on a first come/first served basis, this grant was approved under delegated powers on 22 August 2012, following consultation with Members of the committee by e-mail.

5. Appendix 2 sets out details of unspent allocations.
 - There are 4 grants that were approved in July and corporate guidance sets out the initial deadline for claiming at 9 months.
 - There are 2 grants that have been claimed, leaving a balance un-required, and it is recommended that the balance be made available to be reallocated.
 - There is 1 grant that was allocated to The Hub for £5,000 on 9 November 2011 for the purchase of a mobile football plus trailer. The group are unable to progress the project at this time. They have declined the grant and been advised that they may reapply in the future.
6. Copies of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.
7. Bethel Chapel

An application has been received from the Chapel for capital funding of up to £1,000, which is the total cost to enable them to purchase Arts and Crafts for use by all the children's clubs/groups, which are run under the auspices of the Chapel. These include Little Acorns Parent and Toddler Group, Little Lambs Pre-School Centre, One Way After School Club and Waterhole Youth Club.
8. Members may recall funding agreed to purchase a laptop in 2010/11 of £389.99.
9. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £1,000 should be approved.*
10. Age Concern (Dudley)

An application has been received from the above charity for funding of up to £740 towards the total cost of £3,694.68 for the purchase of IT equipment to enable the organisation to manage and protect financial, client and service data. Age Concern provide a range of services aimed at expanding the involvement of older people in community life. Applications for funding are being sought from all of the five Area Committees as this charity provides services across the Borough.
11. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £740 should be approved.*
12. The Hope Centre

An application has been received from the above for funding of up to £1,350, which is the total cost to enable them to replace flooring that is old and chipped and unsafe within their charity shop. The Centre provides a safe and welcoming environment where people can meet and access services, both social and educational, under one roof.
13. Members may recall funding agreed to supply and fit garage doors at the Centre in 2011/12 of £1,689.
14. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £1,350 should be approved.*
15. 1st Coombs Wood Scout Group

An application has been received from the above group for funding of up to £5,000 towards the total cost of £5,982 for the refurbishment of the toilets including provision for disabled people. This project will aid the Scout and Guide Groups and Community Groups that hire the centre.

16. Members may recall funding agreed for gas supply, installation and heating in 2010/11 of £5,000.
17. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*
18. Dudley MBC – Directorate of the Urban Environment
An application has been received for funding of up to £2,913.42, which is the total cost of purchasing three Christmas Trees to be sited in the Halesowen area. The trees would be situated at Tanhouse Lane/Chapel House Lane, the Library in Long Lane and St John's Church in the High Street. Similar applications have been made to other Area Committees. This cost includes the erection and removal of each tree, together with associated energy costs for lighting. The installation and maintenance of the tree lights will be met from within the Directorate's existing budgets.
19. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £2,913.42 should be approved.*
20. Hasbury Pre-School
An application has been received from the above for funding of up to £4,500, which is the total cost of purchasing and erecting a canopy, which will provide shelter for the children during poor weather conditions, so they can continue to have access to outdoor play. Hasbury Pre-School is a voluntary management based organisation providing pre-school learning support and development for children aged 2 – 4 years.
21. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £4,500 should be approved.*
22. Halesowen Chamber of Trade
An application has been received from the above for funding of up to £5,000 towards the total cost of £6,192.58 for the refurbishment of Christmas lights in Halesowen.
23. Members may recall funding approved for Christmas lights in 2011/12 of £3,664, 2009/10 of £4,640, 2006/07 of £2,500 and 2005/06 of £6,000.
24. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £5,000 should be approved.*
25. Access in Dudley
An application has been received from the above group for funding of up to £1,152.46, which is the total cost of purchasing two laptops, MS Office and suitable security software, so they can replace old equipment. This will enable them to continue to administrate the group. The organisation work towards improving access for disabled people, people with mobility scooters and people with pushchairs etc making the community accessible to all. The organisation's activities are borough wide and members may wish to consider a partial contribution.
26. Members may recall funding agreed for two digital cameras in 2011/12 of £169.96.
27. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £1,152.46 should be approved.*

28. Old Halesonians Association

An application has been received from the above association for funding of up to £3,174 towards the total cost of £4,500 for the purchase of an electronic scoreboard, as the existing one is dilapidated and not fit for purpose. The association run teams of all ages from under 7's to under 17's as well as a colt squad and senior sides including a veteran team. Although the club is based outside the borough, it has close connections to Windsor School and around half of its members are from the Halesowen area.

29. *I am recommending that members consider whether a grant of up to £3,174 should be approved.*

Finance

30. The total available to spend on new bids in 2012/13 is currently £29,833. If all of the applications in this report are approved then a balance of £5,003 will remain.

	£	Ward
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>	<u>Up to:</u>	
Bethel Chapel	1,000	Cradley & Wollescote
Age Concern	740	All
The Hope Centre	1,350	Belle Vale
1 st Coombs Wood Scout Group	5,000	Halesowen North
Dudley MBC – Directorate of the Urban Environment	2,913.42	Throughout Halesowen
Hasbury Pre-School	4,500	Halesowen South
Access in Dudley	1,152.46	All
Old Halesonians Association	3,174	All
Halesowen Chamber of Trade	5,000	Halesowen South
Total	24,829.88	

Law

31. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.

32. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

33. 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

34. It is proposed that Area Committee:-

- (a) ratifies the award of grant to the Earls Gymnastics Club Park of £9,814.59 for the purchase of ex-Olympic equipment.
- (b) Agrees that unspent grants be made available for reallocation as set out in Appendix 2.
- (c) considers authorising a grant of up to £1,000, towards the total cost of the purchase of Arts and Crafts for Bethel Chapel;
- (d) considers authorising a grant of up to £740 towards the total cost of £3,694.68 for the purchase of IT equipment for Age Concern (Dudley);
- (e) considers authorising a grant of up to £1,350 to replace flooring for The Hope Centre;
- (f) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 towards the cost of refurbishment of the toilets and the provision for disabled installation for the 1st Coombs Wood Scout Group;
- (g) considers authorising a grant of up to £2,913.42 for the total cost of purchasing three Christmas Trees to be sited in Halesowen;
- (h) considers authorising a grant of up to £4,500, which is the total cost of purchasing and erecting a canopy, which will provide shelter for the children during poor weather conditions for Hasbury Pre-School;
- (i) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 towards the total cost of £6,192.58 for the refurbishment of Christmas lights in Halesowen for Halesowen Chamber of Trade;
- (j) considers authorising a grant of up to £1,152.46, which is the total cost of purchasing two laptops, MS Office and suitable security software, for Access in Dudley;
- (k) considers authorising a grant of up to £3,174 towards the total cost of £4,500 for the purchase of an electronic scoreboard for Old Halesonians Association.



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Iain Newman – Area Liaison Officer

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Criteria for Bids/Allocations

- 1.1 The allocation or grant may be spent on “capital” and/or “revenue” schemes:

Capital: one-off expenditure on buying, constructing or improving land, buildings, equipment or vehicles;

Revenue: expenditure on running costs of projects or activities, including staff costs and the purchase of consumables and services from third parties. Priority will be given to one-off, time-limited, or start-up spend, rather than ongoing running costs. The latter should normally be funded by the organisation itself.

- 1.2 Schemes should contribute to the Community Strategy and should not conflict with Council policy.
- 1.3 Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups and should make a difference in the local area.
- 1.4 Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources – e.g. running costs and repair and maintenance of new/improved buildings and equipment.
- 1.5 All expenditure must be in accordance with Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council’s legal powers and demonstrate good value for money.
- 1.6 Members will only consider supporting applications up to a maximum of £5,000 unless there are very exceptional circumstances. Organisations will be encouraged to match fund or seek further funding through other means. Priority will be given to schemes that might generate such funding.
- 1.7 Applications will not be considered from organisations who have previously applied for funding to Area Committees within the previous three years unless there are very exceptional circumstances.
- 1.8 Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the commitment is spent within nine months; otherwise the allocation will be returned back into the available budget and a re-application would be required.
- 1.9 In appropriate circumstances, it may be required that certain items of equipment funded by these allocations are to be made available for use by other organisations.

Appendix 2
Halesowen Area Committee – Unspent Allocations

Recipient	For	Date of Committee Approval	Latest Deadline for Claim	Amount Allocated	Amount not yet Spent	Comments
Greenhill Youth Centre (Leasowes)	Roller shutter doors, renovate kitchen area, ICT and recreational equipment	4 July 2012	4 April 2013	5,000	5,000	
Halesowen Cricket Club	Refurbishment of toilets to include baby changing facilities	4 July 2012	4 April 2013	2,400	2,400	
Rotary Club of H'owen, Rowley Regis, Hasbury & Cradley	Hosting of the Victorian Fayre 2013	4 July 2012	4 April 2013	3,500	3,500	
St Peter's Church	Purchase and fitting of commercial dishwasher and cooker	4 July 2012	4 April 2013	4,180	4,180	
Tuesday Bowls	Bowls mats	21 March 2012	21 December 2012	514	85.97	Balance un-required.
The Hub	Mobile Football Trailer	9 November 2011	31 August 2012	5,000	5,000	The group are unable to progress the project at this time. They have declined the grant and been advised that they may re-apply in the future. Made available for reallocation.
Halesowen in Bloom	Planters etc	9 November 2011	31 August 2012	5,000	35.65	Balance un-required.
Grand Total				25,594	20,202	