

**North Dudley Area Committee – 01 February 2006**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Delegated Capital Budget**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.

**Background**

2. 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.

3. B.T telephone in Bridge Street, Coseley

A request was made for a capital allocation £3,000 to move the above phone box as it was causing a nuisance to local people because it was being used as a meeting point for people to buy & sell drugs.

A discussion ensued and it was decided that further enquiries needed to be made. It was felt that B.T. should be approached in the first instance to see if they would pay for the relocation costs of the booth to another area given that the company had already moved others within the borough.

The possibility of funding the relocation from the Community safety budget was discussed and this avenue will also be pursued.

Whilst the members in attendance supported this request in principle, it was felt that approving the allocation would be setting a precedent for the future should similar situations arise.

4. Lower Gornal Youth Centre

This facility delivers training for people to achieve formal and informal vocational qualifications as well as providing the opportunity for them to take part in recreational activities. It also provides the opportunity for young people to take part in various leisure activities within a safe environment.

The group received an application for the sum of £1,650 to make safe the rear entrance with roller shutters following a recent arson attack.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £1,650.

5. Senior Bowlers

This organisation promotes gentle exercise and recreation for senior citizens although the equipment will be available for use by other groups. A request was made in the sum of £382 towards the cost of purchasing a further short mat, fittings and a replacement cover for the present mat.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £382.

6. Oval and Tudor Managed Neighbourhood

Following the initial application, further correspondence has been received requesting an additional £580. It had been suggested at the previous meeting of the Working Group that 50% of the costs (£2,470) were sought from an alternative source. However, the North Dudley Area Housing Panel having given approval for a sum of £1,868 towards the total scheme costs of £4,940.50.

It was identified that there are access issues whereby Severn Trent have a right of way to pumping equipment at this location. These issues will need to be resolved in agreement with Severn Trent prior to funds being approved.

7. Gornal Athletic Football Club

Gornal Athletic provides the opportunity and facilities for young people to allow them to train and learn soccer skills.

The application was made for £30,000 to replace the concrete terracing, replace security fencing and build a new toilet block.

Conservative members of the group declared a personal a prejudicial interest in the matter. Therefore, the application was deferred so that the Labour members (who have a personal interest only) can hear the matter.

## Finance

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

9. The balance available for allocation in 2005/06 is £157,691, including the allocation for 2005/06 of £40,000.

10. 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	<b><u>£42,773</u></b>	<b><u>£44,919</u></b>	<b><u>£40,208</u></b>	<b><u>£29,791</u></b>	<b><u>£157,691</u></b>
Allocations Paid in 2005/06	£5,228	£7,811	£12,326	£6,259	£31,624
Balance unallocated	<b><u>£37,545</u></b>	<b><u>£37,108</u></b>	<b><u>£27,882</u></b>	<b><u>£23,532</u></b>	<b><u>£126,067</u></b>

11. An approved capital budget of £157,691 is available for 2005/06 (This includes the sum of £3,401 that was identified at the meeting on 01 September 2005 as the savings on completed schemes). Allocations totalling £31,624 have been paid out in this financial year, leaving a balance of £126,067 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the meeting on 11 January 2006 would reduce this balance by £2,032 (Lower Gornal Youth Centre £1,650 and Senior Bowlers £382) to £124,035 if approved.

### **Law**

12. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
13. 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**

14. This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

### **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 3 to 7 be approved.



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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: John Freeman

**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.