

**Halesowen Area Committee – 24th January 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. **Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club**

An application has been received from the Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club for funding towards the cost of replacing their “Throws” safety cage in order to comply with the new IAAF 2006 regulations. The Club has an excellent group of young athletes, (currently 380 members), some of whom are competing at national level. The cost of this project amounts to £12,220 + VAT and the Club have requested support in the sum of £5,000. Having consulted with colleagues, this is a scheme which seems worthy of support, and I am recommending the Committee approve a grant of £5,000.

4. **Crafty Cafe**

The Crafty Café is a Group, based at the Zion Centre, Little Cornbow, which provides an opportunity for people to meet, talk and share craft based skills in an informal, safe and friendly environment. They currently have just over 25 members. They have requested funding amounting to £540.00 to purchase foldaway tables and storage for use by Group members.

Having consulted with colleagues, who support the application, I am recommending a grant of £540.00 be approved.

5. **Barnardos - Dudley Community R.O.U.T.E.S. Creche**

A request for funding has been received from this Group towards the purchase of four baby feeding chairs to be used at the crèche. The sum requested amounts to £130.00.

Having consulted with colleagues, who support the application, I have, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, approved a grant of £130.00.

6. Youth4em Community Action Group

An application has been received from the above Group for funding towards ICT equipment, including a laptop, screen and associated items in order that the Group can take the equipment into schools, colleges and youth centres to promote their work on “No-Drugs – No Underage Drinking – No Anti-Social Behaviour – No Racism – No Bullying”. The Youth4em is Dudley CVS affiliated and works alongside the West Midlands Police and Youth Services.

Having consulted with colleagues, who support the application, I have, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, approved them a grant of £1972.00.

7. “Coffee in the Dark” Scheme

This item was raised under Youth Issues at the last meeting of the Committee and it was agreed that, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body, I should consider as a matter of urgency, a request for funding. The application for funding was subsequently submitted by the West Midlands Police at Halesowen. During the past year many of the local Halesowen residents have shown concerns over the amount of Anti-Social Behaviour in and around the area of Huntingtree Park. Following meetings with local residents, a meeting was set up with those young people from that area and a small committee was set up and the idea of “Coffee in the Dark” was created, whereby the Police and Community Support Officers and Youth Workers took some equipment (on loan to them), such as chairs, tables, refreshment facilities, to the Park and met and engaged with the youths. At that time and thereafter the evening was trouble free, which was the only Friday recorded in months that was trouble free in the park area.

The pilot scheme was extended for a further six weeks, during which young people were encouraged to take some responsibility for running the scheme and to develop community respect.

I have, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, approved a grant of £1,850.00 to enable the scheme to purchase the necessary equipment.

Issues outstanding from last meeting

8. Halesowen Lighthouse Project

A request had been received from the Lighthouse Project for funding towards the cost of ICT equipment for Adult Education provision, but at the time of the last meeting I was still considering the detailed issues. I am pleased to report that an alternative funding source has been identified – “The Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Fund” – and Area Committee funding is no longer required.

9. Lutley Mill  
 This was a request for funding from the owners of Lutley Mill towards the cost of improving public access to facilities at the Mill and at the time of the last meeting, officers were still considering the request. Following a visit by the Chairman and myself to meet the owner of the Mill and subsequent further detailed consideration, we considered that it would not be appropriate to make a grant offer and I have notified the owner accordingly.

## **Finance**

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

	£
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>	
Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club	5,000.00
Crafty Café	540.00
<u>Grants approved through delegated arrangements:-</u>	
Barnados – Dudley Community ROUTES creche	130.00
Youth4em Community Action Group	1,972.00
“Coffee in the Dark” Scheme – West Midlands Police	1,850.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,492.00</b>

Subject to further review, this will leave just over £25,000 unallocated, including a small number of grants previously approved which are no longer required or appropriate.

## **Law**

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

13. 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

14. It is proposed that the Area Committee:-
- (a) approves a grant of £5,000 to the Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club towards the cost of replacing their "Throws" safety cage in order to comply with the new IAAF 2006 regulations;
  - (b) notes my action, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body, in approving a grant of £130.00 to Barnados – Dudley Community ROUTES crèche towards new baby feeding chairs;
  - (b) notes my action, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body, in approving a grant of £1,972.00 to Youth4em Community Action Group towards IT equipment for anti-social behaviour presentations to schools and colleges;
  - (d) approves a grant of £540.00 to the Crafty Cafe for foldaway tables and storage boxes;
  - (e) notes my action, in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Body, in approving a grant of £1,850.00 to the West Midlands Police for their "Coffee in the Dark" scheme for various items to enable them to continue with the scheme;
  - (f) notes the position with regard to the requests for funding from Halesowen Lighthouse Project and Lutley Mill.



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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*).