

North Dudley Area Committee – 20 September 2006

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.
 - 1.1 To confirm that subject to (1.2) below, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
 - 1.2 To confirm that, in the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chair 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

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. **Lower Gornal Youth Centre**

An application in the sum of £4,418.66 from Lower Gornal Youth Centre for the provision of a sensory room for young children was considered by the Committee at the meeting held on 29 August 2006. The Committee supported the application in principle but asked for a check to be made into the expected usage of the facility.

It was agreed that if the majority of users were from the general area of North Dudley that the costs be shared across the four wards, if this was not the case then the full costs would be met from the Gornal Ward capital budget.

4. **Age Concern**

An application in the sum of £1,472.50 was submitted by Age Concern for the upgrading of safety and security at the Day Centre in Etymore Road. Following consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 29 August 06, the application was rejected on the basis that Age Concern has been well supported by the Committee on a number of previous schemes and it was felt that other groups should be given the opportunity to benefit from the funding available.

5. Beacon Hill Tenants and Residents Association

The Committee received a letter from Beacon Hill Tenants and Residents Association requesting that a computer previously funded by the Committee, for use at Swan Village Tenants and Residents Association, be transferred to their association to assist them with running the group. The Swan Village Association dissolved and the computer was transferred to Brunel Tenants and Residents Association who have since purchased their own computer.

The Committee fully supported this request.

Finance

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

7. The balance available for allocation in 2006/07 is £164,555, including the allocation for 2006/07 of £40,000.

8. 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 2006/07	<u>£37,163</u>	<u>£36,528</u>	<u>£26,232</u>	<u>£24,632</u>	<u>£124,555</u>
New allocation for 2006/07	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2006/07	£17,170	£226	£1,710	£9,269	£28,375
Balance unallocated	<u>£29,993</u>	<u>£46,302</u>	<u>£34,522</u>	<u>£25,363</u>	<u>£136,180</u>

9. An approved capital budget of £164,555 is available for 2006/07 (This includes a saving on the Sedgley Christmas lights 2005 allocation in the sum of £1,099 that has been added back to the Sedgley Ward budget, plus the new allocation for 2006/07). Allocations totalling £28,375 have been approved in this financial year (including the additional applications received for Upper Gornal Traders & Residents Group and Sedgley & District Community Association considered at the meeting of 28 June 06), leaving a balance of £136,180 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the Meeting on 29 August 06 would reduce this balance by £4,419 (Lower Gornal Youth Centre) to £131,761 if approved.

Law

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

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

Recommendation

- 13. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 3 to 5 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.