

North Dudley Area Committee – 28 November 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. **Upper Gornal Kidz Club**

An application in the sum of £440 was submitted by Upper Gornal Kidz Club for the provision of an air hockey table game, a football table game and a set of snooker balls. The working group supported this request.

4. **Sedgley & District Community Association**

An application in the sum of £5,000 was submitted by Sedgley & District Community Association to fund the shortfall of funding required to build an extension to the centre that will provide increased facilities for the community. Currently, one of the grant providers is withholding funding until the Association are able to provide evidence that all of the funding required for the project is in place. As a result, the works are being delayed.

The Working Group fully supported this request.

5. 2132 (Sedgley Squadron) Air Training Corps

An application for the sum of £6,000 was received from 2132 (Sedgley Squadron) Air Training Corps towards the purchase of a minibus. This would enable the squadron to undertake a greater range of activities such as Duke of Edinburgh Award training, gliding and sports. The minibus would also be available for use by other local groups such as the Scouts and the local Army Cadet Force Detachment.

The application was agreed in principle pending further information. The working group requested that further competitive quotations be obtained and that an independent valuation of the vehicle to be purchased was carried out. The working group also requested information with regards to the security and location of the area where the vehicle is to be kept.

6. Darby and Joan Club

An application in the sum of £1200 was received from the Darby and Joan club to remove old tarmac and resurface the frontage of the club drive.

The working group rejected this application on the basis that they do not wish generally to use Area Committee funds to support the development of car parks within the borough.

7. Oval and Tudor Managed Neighbourhood Community Safety Project

An additional application from the Oval and Tudor Managed Neighbourhood Community Safety Project was presented to the Working Group. The application was for a sum of £5,000 that would be a contribution to the overall project costs of providing dropped kerbs and hard standings to gardens on the Oval and Tudor estate. The project aims to alleviate the problems associated with vehicles being parked on the narrow roads and pavements around the estate.

The working group rejected this application on the basis that they felt it was not appropriate for the Area Committee to fund kerb lowering.

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 2006/07 is £164,555, including the allocation for 2006/07 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	<u>£37,163</u>	<u>£36,528</u>	<u>£26,232</u>	<u>£24,632</u>	<u>£124,555</u>

2006/07					
New allocation for 2006/07	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Allocations Paid in 2006/07	£18,275	£1,331	£2,815	£10,373	£32,794
Balance unallocated	<u>£28,888</u>	<u>£45,197</u>	<u>£33,417</u>	<u>£24,259</u>	<u>£131,761</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 £32,794 have been approved in this financial year, leaving a balance of £131,761 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the Meeting on 30 October 06 would reduce this balance by £11,440 (Upper Gornal Kidz Club £440, Sedgley & District Community Association £5,000 and 2132 Sedgley Squadron £6,000) to £120,321 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.