

Halesowen Area Committee – 7th July 2010

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To recommend grants from the Committee's Capital Budget Allocation and associated matters.

Background

2. I have provided below details of the current financial position on uncommitted/unspent capital budget. Prior to the consideration of bids referred to in this report, the table below summarises that position:-

	£
Total allocations 2000/01 to 2009/10	500,000
Less:	
- Spent to date	(451,546)
- Allocated to bidders, but not yet spent (see Appendix 2)	(31,325)
- Earmarked for Town Centre enhancements	(17,000)
Sub-Total	129
- New Capital allocation for 2010/11 *	50,000
Available to spend on new bids/earmarks *	50,129

Note * - The Council, at its meeting on 19th July 2010, is being recommended to agree a further capital allocation of £50,000 for 2010/11. **However, at this point, that has not been agreed.**

Members should also note that at the March meeting of this Committee, a sum of £790 each was approved for the Empty Shops Grant initiative for the three local centres (Cradley/Windmill Hill, Shell Corner and the Stag) (£2,370).

3. It has been the Committee's practice to delegate authority to me, in consultation with the Chairman and a representative from the Opposition Group, to agree requests from Community and Voluntary Groups for small grants (up to maximum £2,000) and this arrangement has worked well. I am recommending it should continue in 2010/11.

4. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. 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.

Short Cross Methodist Church

5. An application has been received from the Church for capital funding up to £5,000 towards a complete refit of the kitchen area, to include new work surfaces, cupboards, sinks and drainers etc as well as the provision of an industrial dishwasher and hot storage unit. The floor will also be re-tiled and decorated. The overall scheme also provides for a sink and storage units in other parts of the premises to aid activities such as flower arranging and craft work. The whole project has been estimated to cost £17,500 and 66% of the costs will be funded from within the Methodist Church.
6. Due to the number of groups that use the church facilities, August has been identified as the least disruptive time for the work to be undertaken.
7. **This seems a worthwhile project and given that the Group are contributing a large amount themselves towards the costs, I am recommending a grant of up to £5,000 be approved.**

Air Training Corps 223 Squadron

8. An application has been received from the Squadron for assistance towards a second mini-bus. After successful recruitment in recent months, the number of young people attending has topped 35. The programme of events both on parade evenings and at weekends is now so varied there is hardly a week free of competitions, sports, camps etc. Currently the squadron transported via the mini-bus (funded in 2008 by capital funds from this Committee) and the Squadron is now fund-raising towards a second mini-bus.
9. They have stated a second-hand mini-bus could cost anything between £5,000 to £8,000. A letter has been sent requesting how much the Squadron would be willing to contribute, but to date no response has been received.
10. **I am seeking Committee approval not to recommend a further grant, bearing in mind that capital funding are very limited for 2010/11 and that this Committee has only recently assisted the Squadron in purchasing a replacement mini-bus.**

St. Margaret's of Antioch Church

11. A request for capital funding of £5,000 has been received toward major roof repairs at the Church costing around £46,000. The repairs required include the repair of plan roof tiling, the stripping and retiling of the roof of the South Aisle and adjacent chapel, the stripping and repair of the valleys of the North and South crossing gables, various sections of re-painting and some stonework repairs and the cleaning out of all gutters and down-pipes and their redecoration.
12. **This seems a worthwhile project and given that the Church are contributing a large amount themselves towards the costs, I am recommending a grant of up to £5,000 be approved.**

Wollescote Community Association

13. A request for capital funding of up to £3,600 has been received towards a kitchen refurbishment project at Association's meeting place. The Association is run by an all voluntary committee and caters for all ages and is open seven days a week, with approximately 200-300 users of the facilities.
14. A letter was sent requesting whether the Association would be willing to contribute any funds towards the project itself and no response has been received to date.
15. **This seems a worthwhile project and if assurances are received as to their own contributions, I am recommending a grant of up to £3,600 be approved, otherwise a grant of 50% (£1,800).**

Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club – Tennis Section

16. A request for capital funding of £5,000 has been received towards an overall project cost of £187,050 which has already received planning permission. The Tennis Section at Manor Abbey Stadium is looking to refurbish the ageing tennis courts, including an extension to minimum Lawn Tennis Association specification and floodlighting to three courts.
17. The Club are contributing £45,000 towards the cost with a Grant and Loan from the Lawn Tennis Association of £130,000. They have applied for funding from other sources totalling £7,000 and now are seeking £5,000 from this Committee.
18. The Club provides tennis facilities and membership to all ages and abilities in the Halesowen area. They offer mini-tennis coaching, junior coaching and team coaching, adult beginners, adult teams and senior citizens sessions.
19. **This seems a worthwhile project and given that the Club are contributing a large amount themselves towards the costs, I am recommending a grant of up to £5,000 be approved.**

Finance

20. The total available to spend on new bids in 2010/11 is £50,129 subject to £50,000 being allocated by Council at its meeting on 19th July 2010. If this funding is approved, recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations and after allowing the Empty Shops Grant Initiative funding of £2,370 would leave a balance of £29,159 for the remainder of 2010/11 available:-

	£	Ward
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>	<u>Up to:</u>	
Short Cross Methodist Church	5,000	Belle Vale
St. Margaret's of Antioch Church	5,000	Halesowen South
Wollescote Community Association	3,600	Cradley & Foxcote
Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club (Tennis Section)	5,000	Halesowen North and South and other Wards
Total	18,600	

Law

21. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
22. 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

23. 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

24. It is proposed that the Area Committee, subject to a further £50,000 being approved by Council and after deducting the Empty Shop Grant Initiative allocation of £2,370 :-
- (a) authorises a grant of up to £5,000 for the Short Cross Methodist Church towards a major kitchen refurbishment programme;
 - (b) authorises a grant of up to £5,000 for St. Margaret's of Antioch Church towards the major roof repairs required;

- (c) authorises a grant of up to £3,600 for Wollescote Community Association towards a kitchen refurbishment programme subject to assurances about their own contributions, otherwise 50% £1,800 be approved;
- (d) authorises a grant of up to £5,000 to Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club (Tennis Section) towards the refurbishment of their ageing tennis courts;



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Bill Baker

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).
- f. Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value.
- g. Approved allocation must normally be claimed within six months.

Appendix 2

Halesowen Area Committee
Allocations not spent over 6 months:-

Year Allocated	Date of Committee approval	6 months from date of approval	Recipient	For:	Amount Allocated & Not Yet Spent (£)	Comments	Recommended to bring back to Centre
2010/11							
	14th January 2010	14th July 2010	Cradley Then and Now	refurbing of air raid shelter for school/community use	2102.00	20/1/10 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds	
	14th January 2010	14th July 2010	1st Coombs Wood Scouts	towards gas heating installation costs	5000.00	20/1/10 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds	
	14th January 2010	14th July 2010	Howley Grange Scouts	towards kitchen refurbishment	2500.00	20/1/10 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 11/06/10 - Letter with receipts totalling £3302.19 gross received. Payment released by return £2,500	
	14th January 2010	14th July 2010	Womens Awareness Association	ICT equipment etc and sewing/overlocker machines	457.06	20/1/10 - Letter advising of £5'000 grant - subject to assurances and copy insurance policies about individual items being received and awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds April 2010 - insurance now sorted - awaiting invoices to total value in due course. 28/5/10 Quote received from photocopier £2115 inc VAT - cheque released for that amount 7/6/10 Quote received from PC World re. various items £1848.01 inc VAT - BACS payment sent direct 9/6/10 Quotes for Laptop/Speakers/Microphones from Comet and Maplin received - BACS payment sent to Womens Awareness £579.93	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Zion Christian Centre	Setting up of a Food Bank	139.55	Nov 09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 14/12/09 - Letter and copy receipts received to the value of £1110.45 (-£139.55)	
2009/10	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Hope Street Park Friends Group	0-8 year olds play equipment (separate to Play Pathfinder)	5000.00	Advised Parks of funds and instructed them to contact us for Cost Centre in due course	
	11th November 2009	11th May 2010	Caslon Community Partnership	Additional grant - fencing - community garden project	2500.00	Nov 09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds	
	3rd September 2009	3rd March 2010	Eritrean Tigre Welfare Association	ICT equipment and storage facilities	2304.74	10/9/09 - Letter advising of grant - subject to further information previously requested being received 3/2/10 - Letter plus receipt for £695.26 received - those funds released but have requested more information before any more funds will be released	
	1st July 2009	1st Jan 2010	Caslon Parent and Toddler Group	Secure storage for prams and buggies	5000.00	7/7/09 - Letter advising of grant - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 29/1/10 - Contact from Vicky Wood on behalf of the Group - works to commence shortly. Will await invoice in due course	
	1st July 2009	1st Jul 2010 (extension granted)	Caslon Community Partnership	Fencing to secure site	2500.00	7/7/09 - Letter advising of grant, subject to planning permission and further funding to clear overgrowth - awaiting copy receipts/invoices to release funds 15/12/09 Letter received requesting extension to 6 month ruling. Final plan and illustrations are being prepared for consultation with the residents backing on to the site and in the absence of any major objections, the Partnership intend to apply for planning permission and to the Community Spaces Fund for support in the New Year - extension to 1/7/10	
2008/09	12th November 2008	31st May 09	Cradley Town Football Club (in principle)	Disabled facilities	2500.00	30/3/09 - Letter to Mr. Thomas - awaiting receipt of formal Set of Accounts submitted to Football Association 14/7/09 Letter stating if we don't hear from them by end July, will assume NLR and bring back for reallocation 30/7/09 Letter advising all issues 21/10/09 - Letter chasing current position and stated if nothing heard by end October - allocation will be withdrawn. Nov 09 - contact made by Mr. Overton - Consultant Architect trying to sort out regeneration options out for the area. Have advised grant still available for disabled facilities.	
	22nd January 2009		Friends of Huntingtree Park	Replace existing benches - request to March 2010 HAC to divert unspent funds	1322.00	1st May 2009 - expenditure code emailed to DUE Parks staff. However, not all £5k approved requires to be spent and the Friends have requested the remaining balance to fund benches.	
				GRAND TOTAL	31325.35		