

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

North Dudley Area Committee - 16 September 2004

Report of the Area Committee Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose

1. To remind the Committee of the financial position relating to capital allocations made by the Committee
2. To advise the Area Committee of applications considered by the Working Group.
3. To seek the Area Committee's agreement to the recommendations made by the Working Group at their meeting on 11 August 2004.
4. To summarise the progress made to date in respect of the approved capital allocations.

Background

5. The meeting of the Area Committee held on 13 July 2004 agreed that each of the four Wards be allocated a sum of £32,848 for capital allocation for the 2004/2005 municipal year. This sum included the funding carried over from 2003/2004 and a sum of £40,000 allocated for the 2004/005 municipal year divided equally between the four Wards.
6. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers applications for funding according to criteria agreed by the Area Committee. In summary, applications are required to be made by *bona fide* community groups; that applications be for capital or one-off expenditure; that appropriate safeguards are put in place to ensure that the funding is properly used.
7. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers representations made by Ward Councillors on applications, which may be accepted, accepted but at a reduced amount, referred back for further discussions with the applicant, or refused.

8. From time to time advertisements will be placed in the local press advertising the availability of the funding and the criteria for allocation.

Recommendations of the Working Group

9. Turls Hill and Swanbrook Valley Residents' Association (Sedgley Ward)

An application for funding has been received to translate the Turls Hill and Swanbrook Residents' Association Management Plan and produce copies of their video at a cost of £2800.

Following consideration by the Working Group a decision was deferred and it was agreed that the Area Liaison Officer would write to the Residents' Association asking for a more defined breakdown of the expenses incurred in producing copies of their video. If the information requested was received in time it was proposed that the application would be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Working Group.

10. Sedgley Junior Angling Club (Sedgley Ward)

An application has been received for £3,728 for equipment for the Sedgley Junior Angling Club. The application was considered by the Working Group who deferred their decision to allow a letter to be sent to the applicant asking for clarification as to where the equipment would be securely stored. If the information requested was received in time the it was proposed that the application would be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Working Group.

11. Wallbrook Primary School (Coseley East Ward)

A verbal enquiry had been made but an application form had not been received prior to the meeting of the Working Group.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was proposed that the application would be deferred and that the Area Liaison Officer would contact the applicant and ascertain whether or not they wished to proceed.

12. Beacon Hill Tenants' and Residents Association (Sedgley Ward)

An application has been received for £1,535 for gardening tools to be used by old age pensioners and disabled residents to improve and maintain the Beacon Hill Estate.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was proposed that the application be considered at the next meeting of the Working Group.

13. Upper Gornal Methodist Church (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward)

An application has been received for £4,000 towards the total cost of £8,124 for relaying the car park at the Church. The car park is used by a number of community groups as well as the Church.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was recommended that the Area Liaison Officer contact the applicant, seeking clarification as to whether the car park had already been refurbished. The Council's policy is not to fund retrospective applications and if it were ascertained that the work had already been done, the Working Groups' recommendation was that the application be refused.

14. Dormston Youth Club with Sedgley Community Association (Sedgley Ward and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward)

An application has been received for £11,663 towards the total cost of £26,400 for the part-demolition of the existing demountable building, the relocation of an existing demountable classroom to the site, and for the connection of services, in order to re-open the Dormston Youth Club.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £11,663.

15. St James the Great Parochial Church Council (Gornal Ward)

An application has been received for £1,633 for an indoor bowls mat and accessories for the St James the Great Bowls Club.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was proposed that a decision be deferred for further consideration and discussion with the Ward Councillor in question and an invitation will be extended to her to attend the next meeting of the Working Group.

16. Sedgley Childminding Association

An application has been received for £1,493 for toys and accessories for the Sedgley Childminding Association that meets at St Mary's Activity Centre, Gorge Road Sedgley.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was recommended that the application be refused as St Mary's lies within the Wolverhampton City Council boundary.

17. Lower Gornal Scouts

An application has been received for £2,500 towards the replacement of a mini-bus for the Lower Gornal Scouts.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was recommended that the application be approved.

18. Coseley Community Education Network

An application has been received for £2,644 for the purchase of new curtains carpets and other sundry items for the Summerhill Daughters of Rest meeting place.

Following consideration by the Working Group it was recommended that the application be refused.

Finance

19. This report is concerned solely with the allocation of capital funding by the Area Committee.

20. Each of the four wards have £32,848 to allocate in respect of North Dudley Area Committee capital programme for 2004/05 financial year. This includes prior years unallocated budget of £91,395, as detailed in paragraph 5.

21. Prior to 11 August 2004 Capital Allocations Working Group Meeting, the group last met on the 1 March 2004. Therefore the 2004/05 capital programme, as detailed in paragraph 20 above, is available in full for members to consider the recommendations of the working group, as detailed above.

Legal

22. The Council's budgeting process is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Local

Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Equal Opportunities Policy

23. Consideration of applications for funding by the Area Committee will take account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Recommendation

24. It is recommended that the Area Committee agree the recommendations of the Working Group as outlined above.



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