

## Halesowen Area Committee – 13 January 2011

### 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 2010/11	550,000
Less:	
- Spent to date	(479,528)
- Allocated to bidders, but not yet spent (see Appendix 2)	(28,869)
- Earmarked for Town Centre enhancements	(17,000)
- Earmarked for Empty Shops Grant initiative (Cradley/Windmill Hill, Shell Corner and the Stag) (£790 each)	(2,370)
<b>Available to spend on new bids/earmarks</b>	<b>22,233</b>

3. 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.
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cradley & St Peters Scouts  
An application has been received from the group for capital funding of up to £5,000 towards the total cost of £9,672 which covers the installation of secure lockable entrance door with wheelchair access, secure lockable fire exit door and secure steel fencing to the rear of the property. The group have been the target of vandalism/break-ins.

5. Members may recall a grant of £2,000 was approved in 2004/05 towards security fencing and also a grant of £5,000 in 2005/06 for the renovation of the interior of the building, including the provision of disabled toilets.
6. **This seems a worthwhile project and the group will fund the remainder of the cost of the works. I am therefore recommending that members consider approving a grant of up to £5,000.**

### **Finance**

7. The total available to spend on new bids in 2010/11 is £22,233. Recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations and would leave a balance of £17,233 for the remainder of 2010/11 available:-

	<b>£</b>	<b>Ward</b>
<u>Recommended for approval:-</u>	<u>Up to:</u>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cradley & St Peters Scouts	5,000	Cradley & Foxcote
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000</b>	

### **Law**

8. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
9. 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**

10. 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**

11. It is proposed that the Area Committee:
- (a) considers authorising a grant of up to £5,000 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Cradley & St Peters Scouts.



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Iain Newman  
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.