

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 7 November 2007

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the recommendations of the Capital Allocations Working Group with regard to allocations to organizations, from the Committee's delegated capital budget, for this part of the 2007/2008 financial year.

Background

2. The Capital Allocations Working Group met on 19 September 2007, and considered 8 new applications, 6 deferred applications and a Ward request for a reserved amount.
3. Members representing Castle & Priory, Netherton, Woodside & St Andrew's, Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood and St James's Wards were present.
4. The recommendations that the Working Group are making to the Area Committee are detailed in Appendix 1.
5. Members at the Area Committee of 12 June 2007, raised two questions on capital expenditure and these are the replies given by Accountancy and reported to the Capital Allocations Working Group:
 - The capital allocation to each Area Committee cannot be used for revenue expenditure i.e. running or consumable costs, because the allocation comes from the Council's capital receipts and, by law, that money can only be used for capital expenditure.
 - Any request for a increase in the annual allocation, which is the same amount for all Area Committees, would require a joint approach by the five Committee Chairs to the Director of Finance, who would advise if there are sufficient monies available from within the capital budget to increase the total allocation. (Currently £250,000 per year divided by 5).

Finance

6. The recommendations made by the Working Group would result in a total expenditure of £35,164.79. This would leave a total of £84,959.48 available for further capital allocations.

7. However, because each of the 5 Wards has its own allocation to spend, the remainder per Ward is as follows:

		£
Castle & Priory	=	10,007.79
Netherton, Woodside & St Andrew's	=	25,971.92
Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood	=	10,852.43
St James's	=	18,238.08
St Thomas's	=	19,889.26

8. The above figures include a late saving of £128.55 applicable to Castle & Priory, a grant repayment of £20,000 applicable to Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews and an adjustment of £45.05 from the 2006/07 year divided between all Wards.

Law

9. Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 enables the Council to do anything that it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the social, environmental, or economic well being of its area.

10. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

11. The awarding of capital grants to community and voluntary organizations, some of which represent minority groups, is specifically intended to assist in improving the well being, directly or indirectly, of all minority groups.

12. The awarding of capital grants also has the specific purpose of creating general benefits for the wider community and therefore fully meets the Equal Opportunities policy of the Council.

13. Many of the groups or communities helped by these capital grants will include beneficial help to children and young people. However, there has been no direct consultation with children and young people in developing these proposals.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that : -

- The Area Committee considers the recommendations of the Capital Allocations Working Group given in Appendix 1 and approves them for implementation.

- The Area Liaison Officer is authorised to carry out the recommended actions within the agreed control procedures.
- The Area Liaison Officer is authorised to renew efforts to encourage further grant bids through the Committee advertising, press releases and communication with the community and voluntary organisations through DCVS & Dosti.



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List of Background Papers

- The application forms on which this Report is based were made available to the Capital Allocations Working Group, but are confidential documents under the terms of Paragraphs 5 & 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.