

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE - 10 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

Purpose of Report

1. To consider proposals for the allocation of expenditure from the delegated capital budget for the financial year 2008/ 2009.

Background

2. At the Area Committee meeting of 13 June 2006, an updated process for the award of capital grants to community organizations was agreed. A copy of this process is included as Appendix 1.
3. At the Area Committee meeting of 3 October 2000, a criteria was agreed for the award of capital grants. A copy of the criteria is included as Appendix 2.
4. At the Area Committee meeting of 1 October 2001, an accounts criteria applicable to new organizations was agreed. A copy of the criteria is included as Appendix 3.
5. At the Area Committee meeting of 3 October 2000, a Capital Allocations Working Group was set up to consider the applications in detail and thereby make recommendations to the Area Committee. That practice has continued each year since then.
6. At the Area Committee meeting of 6 July 2000, it was agreed that the total annual sum available, £50,000, would be split equally between the five Wards.
7. At the Area Committee meeting of 24 January 2006, it was agreed that there would be no formal maximum applied to grant awards. Each Ward can recommend any discretionary amount, as long as they have the necessary funds. The guideline maximum of £2,000 per organization need only be used when there is a shortage of funds within a particular Ward.
8. An urgent application from the West Midlands Fire Service that has been submitted to all Area Committees is detailed in Appendix 4.

Finance

9. For the financial year, 2007 / 2008, a total of 22 applications were considered and 20 community organizations benefited from capital grants totalling £91, 833.58 taken from a starting total of £120,131.07.
10. The sum of £50,000.00 plus a carry-forward amount of £ 28, 297.49 plus savings in unspent grants to date, £1,026.33, gives a total of £79, 323.82 that is available for any capital allocations that the Area Committee may wish to approve before 31 March 2009.
11. Therefore each Ward has £10,000.00 to allocate plus their individual carry-forward amounts, which added together are as follows:

Castle & Priory	£ 18, 563.66
Netherton, Woodside & St Andrew's.	£ 17, 971.92
Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood	£ 20, 852.43
St James's	£ 10, 450.62
St Thomas's.....	£ 11, 485.19
12. These figures include individual reconciliations, where applicable, between the grant awarded and the actual expenditure, if the expenditure is a lesser amount. These savings have been put back into the appropriate Ward budget.

Law

13. 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.
14. 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

15. The awarding of capital grants to community organizations has the specific purpose of creating general benefits for the wider community.
16. Many of these organizations represent groups within the community who have special needs e.g. ethnic minorities, older people, young people and disabled people, so any capital award will also help these groups and ensure that the equality impact is maximised.
17. Children and young people are often the direct beneficiaries of these capital grant awards, but there has been no specific consultation with them and they were not involved in developing the proposals.

Recommendation

It is recommended that: -

- The Area Committee approves the capital allocation process for implementation in 2008 / 2009.
- The Area Committee considers the application at Appendix 4 and states its approval or otherwise.
- That the Area Liaison Officer be authorised to carry out the recommended actions.



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List of Background Papers

- The minutes of the Central Dudley Area Committee meetings of 6 July 2000, 3 October 2000, 1 October 2001, 24 January 2006, 13 June 2006.
- The agreed process and criteria for the award of capital allocations as has been applied in previous years.