

North Dudley Area Committee – 1st December 2010

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To consider applications for a capital allocation from the North Dudley Area Committee's delegated capital budget.

Background

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £106,365. Spending proposals are invited from members of the Area Committee, the public, representative organisations and Council departments, and each proposal is assessed against strict criteria as set out in the Appendix A.
3. A copy of applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

Applications

4. Old Park Farm Tenant and Residents Association Sycamore Green (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton)
An application in the sum of £553.50 was received from the above for the purchase of a laptop, printer and associated software for the Association.

The area covered by the group includes areas of Central Dudley Area Committee.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve to fund 50% of the application to the value of £276.75 on the basis that the other half be funded by Central Dudley Area Committee. However, confirmation is needed of the exact location of the equipment, and also confirmation is needed in writing from the association that should they fold the equipment would be returned to Dudley MBC.

5. The Quarry Youth Cafe (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton)
An application in the sum of £988 was received from the above for the purchase of games machine and associated equipment, a projector and a lockable store cupboard for the equipment.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application.

6. Pegasus Community Events, Sedgley (All wards)

An application in the sum of £1,270 was received from the above for the purchase of a covered lockable GRP trailer to transport equipment to events in the Dudley Borough.

The organisation is a group of volunteers who provide low cost PA and music for charitable events in the Dudley Borough. Any excess funding generated is given to charities throughout the Dudley Borough.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee approve the application, subject to confirmation that the trailer be stored in a secure place, and that should the group fold the trailer be returned to Dudley MBC.

7. Lower Gornal Youth Academy (Gornal)

An application in the sum of £4,762.58 was received from the above to purchase and install CCTV cameras inside and outside of the Academy.

The application was received late and as such after consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee defer this application pending further discussion with the applicant and ward members.

8. Coseley Athletic Cricket Club(All wards)

An application in the sum of £1,200 was received from the above for a new portable cricket net due to the current one being in a state of disrepair.

The accounts provided with the application have been amalgamated with the bowling club due to there only being one AGM for both clubs as Coseley Athletic Club. The Cricket and Bowling Clubs keep there own set of accounts.

After consideration, the Working Group has a number of concerns and thus recommended the application should be deferred until further information has been provided.

Finance

9. The grants referred to in this report can be funded within the overall allocations for the Area Committee.

10. The following shows allocations approved to date, and the budget remaining. The grants considered this meeting does not include the value for Coseley Athletic Cricket club and Lower Gornal Youth Academy.

| | Coseley East Ward | Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward | Gornal Ward | Sedgley Ward | Total |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Undistributed balance brought forward | <u>21,043</u> | <u>38,948</u> | <u>19,473</u> | <u>11,275</u> | <u>90,739</u> |
| New allocation for 10/11* | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 40,000 |
| Awarded 10/11: | | | | | |
| June 2010 | (3,007) | (7,174) | | | (10,181) |
| Sept 2010 | (2,577) | (1,548) | (5,000) | (5,308) | (14,433) |
| Returned (time expired) | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 240 |
| Undistributed balance | <u>25,519</u> | <u>40,286</u> | <u>24,533</u> | <u>16,027</u> | <u>106,365</u> |
| Grants awarded but unpaid | | | | | 27,102 |
| Grants paid 10-11 | | | | | 13,533 |
| Total | | | | | 147,000 |
| Authorised capital budget | | | | | 147,000 |
| Considered this meeting: | | | | | |
| Grants | (318) | (1,858) | (318) | (318) | (2,812) |

11. An approved capital budget of £103,553 is currently available for 2010/11. The undistributed balance is £106,365; applications within this report, if approved, would reduce that balance by £2,812.

Law

12. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

Equality Impact

13. This report takes account of the Council's Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

14. That the recommendations set out in paragraphs 4 to 8 of this report be approved.



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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER

Contact Officer: Philip Tart

CRITERIA FOR CAPITAL BIDS/ALLOCATIONS

Spending proposals are invited from members of the Area Committee, the public, representative organisations and Council departments, and each proposal is assessed against the following criteria: -

- a) The allocation is 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 Plan 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 ongoing revenue cost to the Council;
- e) Consideration should be given to schemes which might generate external funding (i.e. using the allocation as match-funding); and
- f) Spending must be in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value.
- g) Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.
- h) Approved allocations will be limited to a maximum of £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated