

North Dudley Area Committee – 28th March 2011

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.
2. To confirm that subject to (2) below, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Opposition spokesperson(s), be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
3. To confirm that, in the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chairman at the first meeting of the Area Committee in a municipal year, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Leaders of all political groups represented on the Council, be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.

Background

4. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £105,780. 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.
5. A copy of applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

Applications

6. Community Renewal Services (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton)

An application in the sum of £1,824.80 was received from the above to enable access to the recreation field to be improved. This was considered to be especially beneficial to the Gornal Community Fun day which involves large numbers of vehicles accessing the field.

After consideration, the Working Group recommended that the Area Committee defer consideration of this application to allow clarification with regard to the costings of the project to be sought .

7. Friends of Sedgley Beacon (Sedgley)

An application in the sum of £4,841.79 was received from the above for office equipment to enable the group to become established including the setting up of a website.

Contained within the application were a number of items that are of a revenue nature. The applicant has been made aware of this and thus the working group considered the application with regard to the capital items only.

After Consideration the working group recommend that the Area Committee approve the application for equipment to the value of £2,373, for the items requested that were of a capital nature.

8. Redhall Primary (Gornal)

An application in the sum of £4,725 was received from the above to purchase and install plant and flower tubs around the school to encourage young people to care for their environment by maintaining the baskets and tubs.

There is no quotation at present due to the short timescale in which the application was prepared. The estimate is based on 35 planters but a ward member advised they may not require this many and thus £4,725 is the maximum cost expected.

After Consideration the working group recommend that the Area Committee approve the application for equipment up to the value of £4,725.

9. 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 January meeting approved the value of £600 but deferred further grant upon submission of the Club's development plan evidencing work with North Dudley Youths and Adults and the Coseley School.

A ward member expressed concerns that the evidence has yet to be forthcoming.

After consideration the working group recommend that the remainder of the grant be refused until the group provide information with regard to the development plan.

10. Gornal Athletic Football Club (Gornal)

An application was received from the above for £3,000 to replace items stolen in a recent burglary. The application includes a ride on mower, strimmer and other tools, along with new locks and padlocks to help prevent further thefts.

After consideration the working group recommend that the grant be approved subject to the following conditions.

- a) Confirmation by the club that the stolen equipment was not covered by insurance.
- b) That the equipment when purchased will be insured
- c) That a copy of the relevant insurance certificate be sent to democratic services on an annual basis.

Finance

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

12. The following shows allocations approved to date, and the budget remaining. The grants considered this meeting includes the value for Friends of Sedgley Beacon, Gornal Athletic FC, Red Hall Primary School.

	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)	(7,175)			(10,182)
Sept 2010	(2,577)	(1,549)	(5,000)	(5,308)	(14,434)
Dec 2010	(317)	(1,859)	(318)	(318)	(2,812)
Jan 2010	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(600)
Returned (time expired)	60	60	60	60	240
Withdrawn Summerhill Community Organisation	1100				1100
Coseley Youth returned	2057.16				2057.16
Gornal lights extra cost			(604.96)		(604.96)
Undistributed balance	<u>28,209</u>	<u>38,552</u>	<u>23,460</u>	<u>15,559</u>	<u>105,780</u>
Grants awarded but unpaid					18,943
Grants paid 10-11					22,277
Total					147,000
Authorised capital budget					147,000
Considered this meeting:					
Grants			(7,725)	(2,373)	(10,098)

13. There is an undistributed balance of £105,780 available for allocation.
Applications within this report, if approved, would reduce that balance by £10,098.

Law

14. 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

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

Recommendation

16. That the recommendations set out in paragraphs 2 to 3 and 6 to 10 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