

Halesowen Area Committee – 3rd July 2007

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. The Council is being recommended to agree a further capital allocation of £50,000 for the Area Committee for the financial year 2007/08.
3. Together with a total of just over £18,000 from previous year's allocations, the total amount available for allocation in 2007/08 is £68,000.
4. There is also a total of £43,000 earmarked in previous years for Town Centre Enhancements, Youth Facilities and Shell Corner Neighbourhood Shop, but not yet actually committed.
5. It has been the Committee's practice to delegate authority to me, in consultation with the Chairman and a representative from the Opposition Group, to agree requests from Community and Voluntary Groups for small grants, and this arrangement has worked well. I am recommending it should continue in 2007/08.
6. The Committee has previously agreed that action should be taken to promote the availability of funding by, for example:-
 - (a) issuing media releases;
 - (b) direct mailing to a wide range of Community and Voluntary Groups, Schools and other organisations in the area;

and I am suggested that similar action is taken for the coming year.

7. Since the Committee last met, I have received a number of applications for grant support, about which I have either requested further information or where the request does not meet funding criteria. The details of two further applications are set out below.
 - (a) Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club – Tennis Section
The Tennis Section has requested funding to replace fencing on the grounds of health and safety. Having consulted colleagues, I am unable to support the request because they have significant reserves and a healthy net surplus.

(b) Friends of Huntingtree Park

The Friends Group have requested support towards their first major project – the provision of a multi-use games area, costing in total around £40,000. The Friends have not yet completed a detailed feasibility and need to identify other funding sources to complete the work. The advice from officers is, therefore, to defer a decision pending the completion of further work. Subject to that further work, this is, however, a scheme which seems worthy of support at some stage in the future.

8. The criteria against which bids/allocations should be considered are set out in Appendix A.

Finance

9. The total available for distribution in 2007/08 is £68,000.

Law

10. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
11. 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

12. 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

13. It is proposed that the Area Committee:-
- (a) notes that a total of £68,000 is available for distribution in 2007/08;
 - (b) authorises the Lead Officer to promote the availability of funding;
 - (c) notes the position on requests from Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club, Tennis Section and Friends of Huntingtree Park.



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Mike Williams
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*).