

**Halesowen Area Committee – 6th September 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 criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in the Appendix. The Area Committee has previously agreed that contributions from the budget will be limited to £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. A copy of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

**Lutley Table Tennis Club**

3. Lutley Table Tennis Club, which meets every Monday evening in term time at Lutley Primary School requests funding of £1,077 to replace three table tennis tables which have now reached the end of their useful life and are in urgent need of replacement. The Club currently has 16 Members, most of which are senior citizens. Membership fees are structured to cover the cost of the hire of the hall only and make no provision for the purchase of new equipment.
4. I am recommending a grant of £1,077 for the purchase of three new table tennis tables, subject to the tables being transferred to the Council for use in other leisure facilities in Halesowen, should the Club cease to function.

**West Midlands Police – Youth 4em**

5. This is a request for funding of £900 for the purchase of sports equipment for supervised activities with young people in and around the Leasowes Park area with the aim of:-
  - a. Reducing/stopping anti social behaviour
  - b. Steering young people away from under age drinking and the local drug scene
  - c. Bringing together young people of all ages backgrounds and ethnicity

Arrangements have been made for the safe storage of the equipment. The police will work in partnership with Youth Services.

The Committee has previously agreed funding for similar youth diversion activities and this service is also worthy of support. I am, therefore, recommending a grant of £900.

#### Eritrean Tigre Welfare Association (ETWA)

7. The aims and objectives of the ETWA are to promote and preserve the good education and health of Eritrean people in Dudley and the surrounding areas by increasing awareness and providing culturally specific information, help and advice. The Association, which is a registered charity, is based in Halesowen and says that about 40 people living in Halesowen would benefit from an Area Committee capital grant.
8. The Association has applied for funding of £2,800 for three computers, books and stationery. I have previously met the Chairman of the Association and explained that Area Committee funding is for capital items only and funding for books and stationery would not be available.
9. I have consulted colleagues in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services who have provided advice and support to the Association. They have the Association's Constitution and Accounts on file and advise that the Group is supported by the Centre for Equality and Diversity.
10. I am recommending a grant of £2,000 for the purchase of three computers and associated software, subject to assurances that they will be safely and securely stored when not in use.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Halesowen Boys Brigade

11. The Boys Brigade is a Christian based organisation with the objective of "the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness". The 1<sup>st</sup> Halesowen Brigade, which meets at Carters Lane Baptist Church, request a grant of £7,000 towards the cost of replacing an ageing mini bus (£11,000). They have £4,000 available. The mini bus is also used by the Girls Brigade Company, Youth Club and other organisations within the Church. A total of 120 young people currently make use of the mini bus.
12. The Committee has previously provided support for the purchase/replacement of mini buses for similar organisations but to a maximum of £5,000. I am therefore recommending a grant of £5,000, subject to the Brigade raising the remaining balance.
13. Heritage Boards  
At the last meeting, Members expressed support, in principle for the suggestion from Councillor Body for the provision of Heritage Boards. Officers are currently considering the detailed implication of the suggestion and will report back in due course. The proposal was that the cost of the Boards would be part funded by sponsorship and partly by Area Committee funds. I am, therefore, recommending that the Area Committee earmarks £5,000 at this stage.

## **Finance**

14. The total available for distribution in 2007/08 is £68,000. Recommendations in this report will result in the following allocations:-

	<b>£</b>	<b>Ward</b>
<b><u>Recommended for approval:-</u></b>		
Lutley Table Tennis Club	1,077	Hayley Green and Cradley South
West Midlands Police/Youth 4em	900	Halesowen South
Eritrean Tigre Welfare Association	2,000	Covers all Wards
1 <sup>st</sup> Halesowen Boys Brigade	5,000	Halesowen South
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,977</b>	
<b><u>Earmarked for Heritage Boards</u></b>	<b>5,000</b>	Covers all Wards
<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,977</b>	

## **Law**

15. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
16. 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**

17. 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**

It is proposed that the Area Committee:-

- (a) approves a grant of £1,077 to the Lutley Table Tennis Club for the purchase of three table tennis tables, subject to the table being transferred to the Council for use in other leisure facilities in Halesowen, should the club cease to function.
- (b) approves a grant of £900 to West Midlands Police/Youth 4em for the provision of sports equipment for use in youth awareness activities.
- (c) approves a grant of £2,000 to the Eritrean Tigre Welfare Association for the provision of three desk top computers, subject to assurances they will be safely and securely stored when not in use.

- (d) approves a grant of £5,000 to the 1<sup>st</sup> Halesowen Boys Brigade towards the cost of a new mini bus, subject to the Brigade raising the remaining balance.
- (e) earmark £5,000 as specific funding towards the cost of Heritage Boards in all wards in the Area Committee boundary.



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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*).