

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2006

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

Purpose of Report

1. To consider proposals to allocate expenditure from the delegated capital budget for the financial year 2006/ 2007.

Background

2. At the Area Committee meeting of 3 October 2000, a process for the award of capital grants to community organizations was agreed. Amendments to this process to improve the monitoring and control mechanisms are now proposed. A copy of this process is included as Appendix 1, together with an amended copy of the letter to all applicants outlining the new procedures.
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 (unchanged) is included as Appendix 2.
4. At the Area Committee meeting of 1 October 2001, an accounts criteria was agreed that was applicable to new organizations. A copy of this criteria (unchanged) is included as Appendix 3.
5. At the Area Committee meeting of 3 October 2000, a Capital Allocations Working Group was set up in order to consider the applications in detail and thereby make recommendations to the Area Committee.
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 the 24 January 2006, it was agreed that there would be no formal maximum amount applied to grant awards. Each Ward can recommend any discretionary amount, as long as they have the necessary funds. £2,000 maximum per organization remains only as a guideline when there may be shortage of funds in a particular Ward.
8. For the financial year 2005/ 2006, a total of 20 applications were considered and 18 organizations or community areas benefited from capital grants totalling £53, 638.78 (taken from a starting total of £92, 534.73).

Finance

9. The sum of £50,000.00 plus a carry-forward amount of £38,850.95 (total: £88,850.95) is available for any capital allocations that the Area Committee may wish to approve before 31 March 2007.
10. Therefore each Ward has £10,000.00 to allocate plus their individual carry-forward amounts, which are as follows:

Castle & Priory	=	£15, 530.43
Netherton, Woodside & St Andrew's	=	£ 400.59
Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood	=	£11, 249.43
St James's	=	£ 9, 656.85
St Thomas's	=	£ 2, 013.65

Law

11. 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.
12. 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

13. The awarding of capital grants to community organizations has the specific purpose of creating general benefits for the wider community and, as such, fully meets the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Council.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that:-
 - That the Area Committee approves the improved process for implementation in 2006/07.
 - That the Area Committee agrees to continue to apply the same two sets of criteria that were used in 2005/06.
 - 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.
- The agreed criteria and process for the award of capital allocations as has been applied in previous years.