

**North Dudley Area Committee – 23rd November 2005**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Delegated Capital Budget**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.

**Background**

2. The criteria against which allocations from the delegated capital budget should be considered are set out in the Appendix. A copy of the applications referred to in this report are available to Members on request.

3. Access in Dudley – All Wards

Access in Dudley is a Dudley-wide charity set up in 2004 to raise awareness in all matters relating to people with disabilities. They have applied for a capital allocation of £1,541.65 for the purchase of a laptop computer and ancillary items.

Most of the information requested at the previous meeting (01/09/05) had been made available to the Working Group. However, it was felt that it is still not clear how the equipment would actually benefit the people that Access in Dudley aims to help.

It was agreed that the Treasurer of Access in Dudley would be contacted to seek further clarification.

The application was deferred pending submission of further details.

4. Friends of the Environment Zone

This organisation aims to enable adults and young people to enjoy and learn about their environment through a wide range of activities. They have applied for a capital allocation of £8,500 for the purchase and installation of a Proven 6kW wind turbine on a 9m mast.

Following consideration by the working group, In light of the large amount requested, a partial allocation of £4,500 was approved.

5. Coseley Youth Centre

The application was for a sum of £1,452.37 to erect a fence between the Youth Centre and neighbouring houses to reduce the nuisance to local residents.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £1,452.37.

6. Woodsetton Wolves Football Club

This application was for £800 towards the cost of 2 new football strips for the club.

Unfortunately this request does not meet the Capital allocation criteria and the Working Group rejected the request on this basis.

7. Housing Services and Neighbourhood Management

This organisation works with local residents of the Oval and Tudor Managed Neighbourhood to improve their quality of life and enable them to enjoy a safe and peaceful environment.

The application was for £4,940.50 to improve barriers to Tenacre Lane fields, to add fencing to low walls along Tudor Road and to provide 6 barrier hoops to the alley in Tudor Road.

Following consideration by the working group, In light of the large amount requested, a partial allocation of £2,500 was approved. It was suggested that the organisation should seek match funding from Community Safety.

**Finance**

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

9. The balance available for allocation in 2005/06 is £157,691, including the allocation for 2005/06 of £40,000.

10. The following table indicates the allocations approved to-date, and the budget remaining.

	Coseley East Ward	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward	Gornal Ward	Sedgley Ward	Total
Total available for 2005/06	<b><u>£42,773</u></b>	<b><u>£44,919</u></b>	<b><u>£40,208</u></b>	<b><u>£29,791</u></b>	<b><u>£157,691</u></b>
Allocations Paid in 2005/06	£5,228	£3,859	£7,826	£6,259	£23,172
Balance unallocated	<b><u>£37,545</u></b>	<b><u>£41,061</u></b>	<b><u>£32,383</u></b>	<b><u>£23,532</u></b>	<b><u>£134,519</u></b>

11. An approved capital budget of £157,691 is available for 2005/06 (This includes the sum of £3,401 that was identified at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 as the savings on completed schemes). Allocations totalling £23,172 have been paid out in this financial year, leaving a balance of £134,519 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the meeting on 1 November 2005 would reduce this balance by £8,452 (Friends of the Environment £4,500, Coseley Youth Centre £1,452.37 and £2,500 for Housing Services & Neighbourhood Management) to £126,068 if approved.

### **Law**

12. The Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.
13. 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**

14. This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

### **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 3 to 7 be approved.



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NORTH DUDLEY AREA LIAISON OFFICER Contact Officer: John Freeman

**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.