

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE**CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS WORKING GROUP****RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AREA COMMITTEE – 22 MARCH 2004****1.0 Summary of Deferred Applications by Ward****CASTLE & PRIORY WARD****1.1 Wrens Nest Football Club**

This application was withdrawn. They agreed that it was not an appropriate capital allocation and they subsequently received revenue funding from other sources.

ST THOMAS'S WARD**1.2 St Thomas's Community Network**

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to contribute towards the conversion of a room for multi-use purposes including training and hire by the local community. They will be asked to confirm that they can raise the remainder of the required amount which is £4,000.00.

1.3 Dudley Detached Project

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to help purchase equipment and resources. They supplied a comprehensive list totalling £5,000.00, so they will be asked to identify the intended purchases.

1.4 Guru Teg Bahadur Sikh Temple

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to help purchase steel tables and chairs and contribute to the refitting of the kitchen. They will be asked to identify the intended purchases, having originally requested £4,900.00.

2.0 Summary of New Applications by Ward

ST ANDREW'S WARD

2.1 St John the Evangelist Church – Dudley Wood

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£1,600.00** as requested, to contribute towards upgrading their toilets to make them comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). They will be asked to confirm that they have the funds (approx £3,400.00) to complete the work.

2.2 Dudley Wood Methodist Church

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£4,500.00** in order to upgrade their toilet facilities to comply with the implementation of the DDA. They will be asked to identify the precise expenditure involved.

ST JAMES'S WARD

2.3 Saltmine Trust / Exalt

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to help contribute towards creating a new dance & drama and music rehearsal studio. They will be asked to confirm that they can fund the balance which is £7,375.00.

2.4 Age Concern – Dudley

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to contribute towards the purchase of 30 new armchairs for service users at the Dudley Day Centre. They will be asked to confirm that they can make up the balance of £1,900.00 required or identify how many chairs they intend to purchase.

2.5 Dudley Camera Club

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£1,500.00** to help purchase items of computer and other equipment from a list provided to an original figure of £3,150.00. They will be asked to identify which items they intend to purchase.

2.6 Vicarage Prospect Tenants Association

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to contribute towards the purchase of smoke alarms and fire blankets, for fire protection purposes.

Their request to purchase fire extinguishers is not recommended, based on comprehensive advice from the Directorate of Housing.

ST THOMAS'S WARD

2.7 Sledmere Centre Association

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£1,800.00** as requested, to replace a worn carpet with a non-slip safety floor.

2.8 Dudley Town Centre Forum

The recommendation is that this organization be awarded a capital grant of **£2,000.00** to contribute towards the purchase of intercom radios to be used at events for public safety purposes. They will be asked to confirm the number intended to be purchased, as their original request was for 10 at a total cost of £3,000.00.

3.0 Other Business

3.1 The Use of Neighbourhood Management

Further to the Area Committee decision of 27 October 2003, a meeting was held with Neighbourhood Management to consider how they could assist the Committee in the disbursement of capital funds to identified projects in areas that do not have a strong voluntary sector and therefore no structured organization to make formal capital applications.

The Members of the Working Group considered a proposal to pilot such a scheme in Netherton and Woodside Ward, with the possibility of a holding account being set up by Neighbourhood Management for projects that were agreed by the Working Group.

The Members of the Working Group expressed three concerns:

1. That if there is no community organization to make direct applications then there may be difficulty in identifying the precise nature of the capital expenditure and the necessary control mechanisms.

2. That the passing of capital allocations to Neighbourhood Management, which is part of DMBC, may be seen as making internal grants, which may not accord with the rules governing capital expenditure.
3. The Committee may by using this route be stepping outside the established criteria and process for awarding capital allocations.

Recommendation

The recommendation is that this matter be deferred for a view from the Chief Finance Officer and for more information on the precise process and the controls that would be exercised by the Committee via the Capital Allocations Working Group.

3.2 The Duncan Edwards Statue & Plaque

- 3.2.1 The statue in the Market Place is on the border between **St James's** and **St Thomas's Wards**.
- 3.2.2 At its meeting of 2 October 2003, the Working Group considered the proposal to place a plaque on the Duncan Edwards statue listing his achievements and at that time they recommended that there should not be a plaque because of the potential vandalism and defacement of the statue that might be encouraged by references to the player's connections to Manchester United F.C.
- 3.2.3 At the Area Committee of 27 October 2003, Councillor Whitehouse proposed that the Working Group re-consider its recommendation.
- 3.2.4 The Working Group of the 10 February 2004, then considered a new suggestion from the Borough Artist, Steve Field, which proposed having the achievements stone carved on the plinth of the statue, rather than cast on a separate plaque.
- 3.2.5 The estimated costs for this would be between £1,000.00 and £2,000.00.

Recommendation

- 3.2.6 The recommendation of the Working Group is that the Borough Artist be authorised to pursue a carving of Duncan Edwards achievements on the plinth of the statue for a sum not exceeding **£2,000.00**.
- 3.2.7 This amount to be funded from each Ward, with St Thomas's Ward giving the remainder of its current 2003/2004 funding i.e. £200.00 and each of the other four Wards donating a nominal £450.00.

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