

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

North Dudley Area Committee – 20 September 2005

Report of the North Dudley Area Liaison Officer

Capital Allocations

Purpose

1. The purposes of the report are:
 - to inform the Committee of the financial position relating to capital allocations by the North Dudley Area Committee.
 - to advise the Area Committee of applications considered by the Working Group.
 - to seek the Area Committee's agreement to the recommendations made by the Working Group at their meeting on 1 September 2005.
 - to summarise the progress made to date in respect of the approved capital allocations.

Background

2. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers applications for funding according to criteria agreed by the Area Committee. In summary, applications are required to be made by *bona fide* community groups; that applications be for capital or one-off expenditure; that appropriate safeguards are put in place to ensure that the funding is properly used.
3. The Capital Allocations Working Group considers representations made by Ward Councillors on applications, which may be accepted, accepted but at a reduced amount, referred back for further discussions with the applicant, or refused.
4. From time to time advertisements will be placed in the local press advertising the availability of the funding and the criteria for allocation.
5. The balance available for allocation in 2005/06 is £154,291, including the allocation for 2005/06 of £40,000.

6. 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	<u>£42,849</u>	<u>£42,849</u>	<u>£39,207</u>	<u>£29,386</u>	<u>£154,291</u>
Allocations Paid in 2005/06	£5,228	£3,859	£6,192	£6,259	£21,538
Balance unallocated	<u>£37,621</u>	<u>£38,990</u>	<u>£33,015</u>	<u>£23,127</u>	<u>£132,753</u>

Recommendations of the Working Group meeting 1st September 2005

7. 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.

The Working Group felt that there was a lack of information on which to make an assessment of this application. The organisation operates from a PO Box number, no accounts were submitted and it is not clear what they actually do e.g. how many people have been actively helped within the North Dudley area. Furthermore, there was no explanation of why the computer was required, what use would be made of it and by whom, and where it would be stored.

The application was deferred pending submission of further details.

8. Silveroaks Bowling Club – Gornal Ward

This newly-formed indoor bowling club applied for a capital allocation of £1,633.00 to purchase 2 indoor bowling mats, 6 pairs of indoor bowls, 2 jacks, covers mats and scoreboards. The club has been offered the use of the Memorial Hall in Lower Gornal and would be open to all senior members of the surrounding area. The club would also consider interest from any other age group to make the equipment widely available to the community.

With support from the Ward Councillors and the Chairman the application had been given early approval of funding and the Working Group ratified this action.

9. Gornal Athletic Football Club – Gornal Ward

Gornal Athletic Football Club submitted an application for a £30,000 contribution to proposed major capital works. Total cost of the proposed scheme, to include replacement of concrete terracing and seating, build a disabled entrance, replace security fencing and provide a new toilet block and changing rooms is estimated to be £40,500.

This application was deferred pending further discussions with the applicants. The Football Club would also be advised that if any contribution were to be made to the project then the balance of funding would first have to be secured from other parties before any payment could be made.

10. Unspent Commitments as at August 2005

A summary of approved applications, which have not been fully spent, was circulated. Most of the balances arose from savings on completed schemes and it was agreed that these would be added back to the overall balance for re-distribution – these total £3,401. Further clarification was required on three schemes where no payment had been made and it was agreed to defer a decision on these balances to the next Working Group.

11. It was agreed that the availability of capital funding should be promoted through the production of leaflets and posters.

Finance

12. An approved capital budget of £154,291 is available for 2005/06. Allocations totalling £21,538 have been paid out in this financial year, leaving a balance of £132,753 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the meeting on 1 September 2005 would increase this balance by £1,768 (add back unspent balances £3,401; less Silveroaks £1,633) to £134,521, if approved.

Law

13. The Council's budgeting process is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Equal Opportunities

14. These proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunity policies.

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that the proposals set out at paragraphs 7 to 9 be approved and that the decisions set out at paragraphs 10 and 11 be endorsed.



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