

WARDS:

NO.

AGENDA

ITEM

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 7TH JULY 2004**

**REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER**

**TITLE – CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To consider applications for funding from this year's Capital Allocation budget and to update Members on progress to date.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Area Committee at its meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2003 considered the criteria for allocation of its capital budget, confirmed the existing criteria and asked the Working Group also to consider an additional criteria "one-off expenditure relating to projects which had community benefit".

Criteria:

- (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 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 costs.

- (e) Consideration should be given to schemes that might generate external funding (i.e., using these budgets as match funding).
- (f) Schemes which support the Priority Neighbourhood Themes.
- (g) Priority should be given to schemes which promote social inclusion.
- (h) Would fund one-off funding for projects with clear community benefit.

2.2 At the Working Group meeting on 11th May 2004, applications from 3 organisations were considered. The outline of these and the recommendations of the Working Group are set out below.

Application 1/04 United Reform Church

This application was presented to Members at a previous meeting but there was concern about the date on the submitted accounts. The application is for support for funding to provide disabled toilets at the Church. The Committee has previously supported this Church in the provision of disabled access to the Church. No specific value has been put on the bid. They are simply looking for a contribution towards the cost.

The Working Group recommended that the United Reform Church be allocated the sum of £2500 towards the cost of improvements totalling £9158 which would be match funded by their group Pastorate.

Application 2/04 Springfield Neighbourhood Tenants Association

This is an application from Springfields Neighbourhood Tenants and Residents Association for a contribution to park improvements at the rear of the properties in Springfield Road. The overall project is estimated to cost in the order of £400,000. The Committee are being asked to fund initial access and parking area provision. Some funding for other aspects of the project have been bid for and the funding from the Committee would also be used as match funding for some of these bids if approved by Members.

The Working Group recommended that the Springfield Neighbourhood Tenants Association be allocated £20,000 towards the park improvements at the rear of the properties in Springfield Road, subject to confirmation that maintenance arrangements and funding were in place and that the rest of the project had indicative funding.

Application 3/04 Wall Heath Cyber Centre

This application is for funding to pay for the removal of asbestos and material from the centre which is leased to this youth group. Members will

recall that the Committee supported the setting up of this group through the funding of computer equipment.

The Working Group recommended that the Wall Heath Cyber Centre's request for funding to remove asbestos from the Centre be deferred, to allow the Area Liaison Officer to obtain further information and a copy of the lease regarding the removal of asbestos from the Centre.

### **3.0 PROPOSAL**

3.1 That Members confirm the criteria for allocation of the budget.

3.2 That Members consider the recommendations from the Working Group as set out in paragraph 2.2

### **4.0 FINANCE**

4.1 The delegated budget allocation of £50,000 is funded from the Council's mainstream capital resources with a roll forward of £31,000 from 2003/4. The available budget for this year is therefore £81,000.

### **5.0 LAW**

5.1 The Area Committee may incur capital expenditure in respect of the various statutory functions of the Council.

### **6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

6.1 The proposals take account of the Council's policy relating to equal opportunities.

### **7.0 RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 That the proposals set out in Section 3.0 be approved.

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**Area Liaison Officer**

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**Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-**

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