

North Dudley Area Committee – 23 March 2006

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Delegated Capital Budget

Purpose of Report

1. To consider requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.
2. To confirm that, subject to paragraph 3 below, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman (or Vice Chairman) of the Committee and the relevant Ward Councillors be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.
3. To confirm that, in the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chairman at the first meeting of the Area Committee in a municipal year, the Lead Officer, in consultation with the relevant Ward Councillors, be authorised to determine urgent applications for capital funding.

Background

4. 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 is available to Members on request.
5. Summerhill Forum

A request was made for a capital allocation of £16,944 to complete the installation of security fencing around the open land that covers Higgins Avenue, Harding Street & Brierley Lane, Coseley.

People have been riding various motor vehicles across this open space and causing a nuisance to the local residents. This fencing will secure the area so that the local residents can enjoy the space safely.

The Working Group decided to recommend approval of the funding for the scheme subject to the Assistant Director Culture and Community Services investigating whether 106 funding might be available in the area and also subject to the receipt of further quotes to ensure that the funding is being used most efficiently.

6. Darby and Joan Club

This organisation aims to provide facilities for education, recreation and social activities for the benefit of elderly people living in Lower Gornal and the surrounding area.

A request was made in the sum of £250 towards the cost of purchasing electric hot water hand washers for the ladies and gents toilets as well as an electric toaster and 4 canteen teapots.

Following consideration by the Working Group the application was recommended for approval in the sum of £250.

7. Sedgley in Bloom

A request for an allocation of £5,000 was received by the Working Group to purchase barrier baskets and various other items to provide ongoing flower displays within Sedgley Bull Ring and fronting Queen Victoria Primary School.

It was noted that the purchase of baskets would be classed as capital expenditure but items such as seeds and compost are revenue items.

This request was deferred while for further enquiries and to confirm that the barriers would not cause any obstruction or result in any safety issues.

8. Access in Dudley

Following receipt of the information requested from the Treasurer of Access in Dudley it was decided that:

- (i) Clarification to be sought as to whether Access in Dudley had now bought a computer
- (ii) That a further competitive quote be submitted to the Committee other than the one already submitted and that the applicant be informed that insurance cover for the equipment was not considered by the Working Group to be a capital sum.
- (iii) That following the receipt of the further information indicated in (i) and (ii) above, the Working Group would reconsider approving the sum of £200 towards the cost of a computer.
- (iv) That Access in Dudley be reminded that, as their organisation was a Borough-wide one, applications for funding could be submitted to any of the other four Area Committee for their consideration.

Finance

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

10. The balance available for allocation in 2005/06 is £157,691, including the allocation for 2005/06 of £40,000.
11. 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>£42,773</u>	<u>£44,919</u>	<u>£40,208</u>	<u>£29,791</u>	<u>£157,691</u>
Allocations Paid in 2005/06	£5,610	£8,391	£13,976	£6,258	£34,235
Balance unallocated	<u>£37,163</u>	<u>£36,528</u>	<u>£26,232</u>	<u>£23,533</u>	<u>£123,456</u>

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 01 September 2005 as the savings on completed schemes). Allocations totalling £34,235 have been paid out in this financial year, leaving a balance of £123,456 to be allocated. The Working Group recommendations from the meeting on 28 February 2006 would reduce this balance by £18,535 (Summerhill Forum £16,944, Darby & Joan Club £250 and Access in Dudley £1,341) to £104,921 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.