

**Report to:** Executive  
**Date:** 10 April 2007  
**Report of:** Executive Member for Regeneration  
**Subject:** Urban and Rural Renaissance Scheme in Shotton  
**Wards:** Haswell and Shotton

## **1 Purpose of Report**

**1.1** The purpose of the report is to seek approval of the Executive to provide a financial contribution to an environmental improvement scheme being undertaken in Shotton as part of the Urban and Rural Renaissance Initiative (URRI).

## **2 Consultation**

**2.1** In preparing this report all the necessary service departments within the District Council, Local Members for the Shotton and Haswell ward and the Parish Council have been consulted.

**2.2** Public consultation events have taken place throughout the year and this scheme came forward as one that the public identified as a priority. Members of the public and local residents have been given the opportunity to view the plans and to make comments.

## **3 Background**

**3.1** The URRI programme was launched by Durham County Council at the end of 2003. It is a countywide initiative that seeks to invest £5million of County Council funding together with match funding from a variety of other sources in an overall programme exceeding £20 million over a 5-year period. The programme has been split into three sections; major centres, towns & villages and smaller schemes. The Shotton scheme forms part of the towns & villages programme. Improvement work across all the settlement areas in the initiative looks to revitalise the economic centres of the towns and villages, by improving the highway and the quality of the public realm that surrounds the main thoroughfares through the identified areas.

**3.2** In 2006 Shotton was chosen, through the County Durham Economic Partnership, as one of three Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) areas in the county. The aim of CEDI is to develop small scale locally focused and delivered activities that enhance communities, build capacity and stimulate social enterprise. The URRI scheme in Shotton will complement the work that will be undertaken through the CEDI programme.

## **4 Position Statements: Environmental Enhancements**

**4.1** The purpose of the scheme is to undertake environmental improvements in the Potto Street area of Shotton as shown on the attached plan. The aim is to create a new village green and central square, which will also include the widening of pedestrian footpaths, drop-kerbing, seating and litterbins. Due to the timescales of this scheme, a licence has already been granted to enable the tree and shrub planting to take place.

**4.2** The overall cost of the works is £83,500. Durham County Council are providing £48,500 from the URRI programme, LTP2 £15,000 and they are seeking a Council contribution of £20,000.

- 4.3** This scheme aims to greatly improve an area of Shotton and enhance the economic viability of the village by improving the area near to the shops. The scheme will provide a focal point for the village and the prominent and clearly visible area would not encourage anti-social behaviour. Any contributions to the scheme will be in line with the Framework for District Council intervention agreed by the Executive in January 2006.
- 4.4** The Council will take on responsibility for the future maintenance of the un-adopted paths, hard standings, shrub planting and litterbins. Durham County Council will take on maintenance responsibility for the adopted paths. The Parish Council will take on the future maintenance of the public seating.
- 4.5** This scheme was identified by the community as a priority, however concerns have been raised about the risk of the scheme causing antisocial behaviour. Only two residents out of the sixteen that responded identified antisocial behaviour as being a potential problem, the other fourteen residents welcomed the scheme. On balance this would show that proposals are supported. For the scheme to progress landlords consent for works on Council land will be required.

## **5 Implications**

### **Financial**

- 5.1** The Council's contribution of £20,000 can be accommodated within the 2007/08 Flexible Regeneration Budget.

### **Legal**

- 5.2** It is not considered that there are any legal implications not otherwise referenced in the report.

### **Policy**

- 5.3** It is not considered that there is any policy implications not otherwise referenced in the report.

### **Risk**

- 5.4** A risk assessment has been completed and the necessary actions required to manage the identified risks will be implemented.

### **Communications**

- 5.5** As part of the agreement to support the URRI in Shotton, the District Council's contribution to the improvements will be required to be fully recognised in any media articles or press releases.

## **6. Corporate Implications**

### **Corporate Plan and Priorities**

- 6.1** This scheme fits into a number of Council priorities as identified in the Corporate Plan 2005/06. Firstly it will help to meet the target of 'creating clean tidy communities'. It will do this by improving surroundings by tackling pollutants such as litter, dog, abandoned vehicles, street cleaning and environmental improvement.
- 6.2** It will also meet the target of 'building a healthy community'. It will do this by improving, promoting and encouraging the use of locally accessible, high quality open space.

## **Equality and Diversity**

- 6.3** This scheme will provide drop-kerbing in an area of Shotton that is close to local shops and therefore will make it more accessible to all members of the public.

## **E-Government**

- 6.4** It is not considered that there are any E-Government implications not otherwise referenced in the report.

## **Procurement**

- 6.5** It is not considered that there are any procurement issues not otherwise referenced in the report.

## **Sustainability**

- 6.6** The proposals also have a strategic fit with the Council's Local Agenda 21 Strategy under the key themes of "natural environment", 'land use and the built environment' and "regeneration". Once implemented the scheme will provide a positive contribution to the achievement of these strategic objectives.

## **Crime and Disorder**

- 6.7** It is not considered that there are any crime and disorder issues not otherwise referenced in the report.

## **7 Recommendations**

It is recommended the Executive:

- a) Endorse the proposed environmental improvements scheme in Shotton.
- b) Approve a contribution of £20,000 to the Shotton scheme from the Flexible Regeneration Budget, 2007/2008
- c) Grant Landlords consent for the works being undertaken by Durham County Council on land in Shotton as shown on the attached plan.

Background Papers/Documents referred to:

Durham County Council Cabinet Report 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2003 – (Regeneration and Partnerships Unit)

District of Easington Executive Report – Urban and Rural Renaissance Initiative, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 – (Regeneration and Partnerships Unit)

Proposal from Durham County Council and associated Drawings (648/70218/03/01)