

Item 6b

AREA 1 FORUM

11th December 2006

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application Report - Middlestone Moor Play Area Phase 3

Introduction

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 1 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to formulate a report and recommendation to the Sedgefield Borough Council Cabinet in due course.

The Area 1 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009, none of which has been formally allocated to date. Of this amount, £278,700 has been allocated to 2006 / 07.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Middlestone Moor Play Area Phase 3
- **Name of Applicant:** Middlestone Moor Action Reform Group
- **Legal Status:** Constituted Organisation
- **Date of Application:** 12th August 2006
- **Landlord:** Sedgefield Borough Council
- **Brief Description of Project:** This project will provide Phase 3 of the playground development providing dedicated equipment to cater for the 8-16 age range. Phase 1 currently provides fixed play equipment for 2-8 year olds, whilst Phase 2 involved the construction of a Multi-Use Games Area.
- **Requested from LIP:** £41,518 (64%)
- **Total Project Cost:** £64,734 (Capital)
- **What will the LIP be used for:** To provide 5 pieces of equipment and appropriate safety surfacing specifically aimed at children aged 8-16 years. The project will also include barriers and bollards, adjustments to the footpath and signage to ensure that the playground meets the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) guidelines.

LIP Criteria

- **ODPM Definition:** **Yes**

The land is situated between the current phases of the playground and is not used at the moment - this project will bring the area back into effective use.

- **Community Strategy Objectives:**

The applicant has stated that the project links to three of the four community strategy objectives. These are Healthy- Improving the health and well-being, Strong –Tackling disadvantage, narrowing the inequalities gap between the most disadvantaged communities within the Borough and Attractive - Develop and maximise the leisure and cultural facilities in the Borough.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**

The applicant has identified that before the original phases of the project, took place detailed consultation was entered into with a range of organisation including schools, Youth workers and also older children. Some children and parents went on a site visit to other parks to see equipment and try it out. The Community has also been consulted via copies of plans on display at the school and a letter drop was done to residents in the local area. A feasibility study has been carried out by Groundwork East Durham. To date, the needs of the younger children have been catered for but the older children still have no dedicated play equipment to play on.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**

The applicant has applied for £41,518 (64%) of the total project costs. Of the remaining costs (£23,216), £6,216 has been confirmed as match funding and the remaining £17,000 has been applied for from County Durham Foundation and Spennymoor Town Council. The applicant has also applied for Big Lottery Fund of £50,000 for the project. If this match funding is approved, the LIP may not be required.

There are no revenue costs directly attributed to the project, however Sedgefield Borough Council will be responsible for the maintenance and 3rd party insurance liability for the playground, as an extension of the first two phases. The preferred supplier of playground equipment for Sedgefield Borough Council, Kompan who have been chosen through a full competitive tendering process will supply the equipment.

- **Legal Issues:** **All satisfactory**

- **Statutory Approvals:** **All Agreed**

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers the following key issue;

- The relative priority of this project within the Area 1 locality, given the investment already made in Phases 1 and 2.

Subject to discussion and agreement of the above point, that the Area Forum support the progress and further development of this application through the Council's decision making process.

In agreeing to progress the project further, a key issue that the Strategy & Regeneration Division feel needs to be resolved prior to the project being taken through the Council's decision making process is the outcome of the Big Lottery Fund Grant.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 1:

In taking the above decision, the Area Forum is requested to consider the implication of the funding level requested against the following projects that have been received for future determination by the Forum.

- Spennymoor Settlement - Spennymoor Settlement Regeneration project – LIP requested £120,000, Total project cost £170,000. Agreed to progress this application at the meeting held on 6th November.
- Tudhoe Grange School – Family / Community Support Area- LIP requested £ 15,226.62, Total project cost £28,475.64

This page is intentionally left blank