

Item 6a

AREA 1 FORUM

11th December 2006

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application - Family / Community Support Area – Tudhoe Grange School

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. Of this amount, £278,700 has been allocated to 2006 / 07, none of which has been formally allocated to date.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Family / Community Support Area
- **Name of Applicant:** Tudhoe Grange School
- **Date of Application:** 20th October 2006
- **Landlord:** School Premises - Durham County Council
- **Brief Description of Project:** The project involves the complete refurbishment of an area at the lower school site on Durham Road to provide a venue specifically designed for community and family use to access appropriate services confidentially within their own community. A range of services have been identified to offer support to young people and their families. These include use by the following agencies: Youth Engagement Service, Nursing Services, Survivors of Domestic Abuse, Education Welfare Officer plus additional community based groups.
- **Requested from LIP:** £15,226.62 (53%)
- **Total Project Cost:** £28,475.64 (Capital)
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The porch at the front of the building will be split into 2 areas with a shared entrance to provide dedicated informal community space. One area will incorporate office space and

a meeting area for small groups and the other, a larger meeting area for groups accompanied by a small kitchen/refreshment area. Access to video / ICT will also be provided.

LIP Criteria

- **ODPM Definition:** **Yes**
The applicant has advised us that the building is currently not fit for use and is therefore unused and currently vacant.
- **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 of the local community, improving access to a range of services including Nursing Services and establishing access to effective support mechanisms for victims of domestic violence.
Prosperous – Include courses aimed at developing a workforce with the skills required by business and aiming high in school. Strong – Narrowing the inequalities gap between the most disadvantaged communities within the Borough through an improved level of local service provision.
- **Evidence of need and community support:**
Letters of support have been received from County Durham Youth Engagement Services, No 31 and SODA (Survivors of Domestic Abuse), Sedgefield Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and the Family Support Worker for the school. Spennymoor Youth Action group have also been consulted on the project.
- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**
The applicant has applied for £15,226.62, which is 53% of the total project costs. The remaining costs will be funded by the school's own funds. The revenue costs will be absorbed as part of the schools annual budget. There will be a charge for use of the premises to some agency users at approx. £25 per session (half day or evening), however this will be free to charity and school based groups. The works have been tendered as part of a larger contract for the school, which was managed by Durham County Council.
- **Legal Issues:** **All satisfactory**
- **Statutory Approvals:**
Planning Permission and Building Regulation consent has been approved.
- **Issues**
Durham County Council who own the school site are currently embarking on a 4 Phase - Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Project across the County. Tudhoe Grange School falls into the second phase of planned investment with the school scheduled for redevelopment in approximately 8 years time. Subject to Government funding being confirmed, this project

will redevelop and modernise the school to provide a modern learning environment for both pupils and the wider community.

Therefore any investment directed to the school needs to be protected to ensure that if the school site is redeveloped as part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme, that the investment made is either kept on site or preferably modernised in line with the rest of the school to enhance the level of opportunity to the community.

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.

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 decisions making process.

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 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 Area Forum meeting held on 6th November.
- Middlestone Moor Play Area Phase 3 - Middlestone Moor Action Reform Group - LIP requested £41,518. Total Project cost £64,734

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