

# Item 6

AREA 1 FORUM

16<sup>th</sup> June 2008

## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

### Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

#### Application - New Life Christian Centre Basement Development

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and initially 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 further develop the project proposal prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision-making process.

The Area 1 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009 subject to budget approval. A total of £278,600 has been allocated to the year 2007/08 of which £188,503 has been approved to date. A range of projects were allocated in the previous year for this area, and there is some additional under-spend resulting from last year, which will be available to the Area Forum for additional project activity.

#### Project Background

- **Name of Project:** The Basement Development
- **Location:** Villiers Street, Spennymoor
- **Name of Applicant:** New Life Christian Centre
- **Brief Description of Project:** The project involves the redevelopment of the unused basement area for youth development and the development of unused rooms for community and educational use.
- **Requested from LIP:** £151,400
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £151,400
- **What will the LIP be used for:**
  - Basement works ( fire escapes and staircase, new ceiling, new lighting, plasterboard, treatment of damp, stud walls to create 2 rooms, new heating system for basement, toilets)
  - New Entrance area meaning that the basement area can be accessed without entering the church
  - Creating a new reception area
  - Creating a computer room

- Works to existing rooms and old entrance
  - Refurbished toilets
  - Work to the roof ( new gully, rebed existing tiles)
  - Works to the outside space (fencing, paving, decking and lighting)
  - Fixed furniture
  - Rewire in some rooms to bring up to current regulation
- **Impact of the Project:**  
 The applicant has stated that by bringing these unused spaces back to life they will be able to cater for larger number of children in Spennymoor, They will be able to create a safe place for young people to socialise in and enjoy recreational activities from which has in neighbouring communities led to significant decrease in anti-social behaviour.  
 Community members accessing the new services offered will also grow in confidence and gain new skills and employability as they begin to network with new people and access courses.  
 The outside space will improve community cohesion by allowing the centre to offer intergenerational activities such as community barbeques. Increasing the number of services will also create more opportunities for local residents to engage in volunteering which will have a positive effect on the community.
- **Evidence of need and community support:**  
 The applicant has stated that quality of life research carried out by The Cornforth partnership for Sedgfield Borough Council shows that 102 14-15 year living in Spennymoor say that there is not enough for young people to do in their community in their free time. The centre has also previously ran a very popular youth drop in from the basement with groups of up to 25 young people visiting on a weekly basis. This had to end due to the deterioration of the condition of the basement.  
 Consultation with centre users has shown that there is interest amongst them to undertake adult education courses.
- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**  
 The applicant has applied for £151,400 of LIP, which is 100% of the total project costs. The centre does not have any funds available to contribute to the project at this time but will continue to try and source match funding from elsewhere. They will however be responsible for the revenue costs of the project.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project, the Strategy & Regeneration Division will work with the applicant to identify other opportunities for additional 'match funding' to be brought into the project during the full project appraisal stage prior to it being taken through Sedgfield Borough Council's decision-making process.

**Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:**

That the Area Forum considers:

- The project proposal, and how it would meet the priority needs of the Area 1 locality.

**Material considerations:**

**Other applications received from Area 1:**

St. Paul's Parish Hall Community Regeneration Project £200,000

**Projects endorsed by Area Forum and waiting decision by SBC.**

NONE

**Projects Approved to date:**

2006/07	Tudhoe Grange School Family Centre	£ 15,226
2006/07	Spennymoor Settlement Technical Study	£ 3,231
2007/08	Middlestone Moor Play Area	£ 39,655
2007/08	Spennymoor Settlement	£142,000
2007/08	St Pauls Parish Hall Technical Study	£ 6,848
2008/09	Ox Close Nursery Parents Room	£ 43,835
2008/09	Ox Close School Community Garden	£ 57,548
	TOTAL	£308.344

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