

Item 5

AREA 1 FORUM

19th January 2009

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Overview

This report provides the Area Forum with an update on project activity as part of Sedgefield Borough Council's Local Improvement Programme (LIP).

The purpose of the LIP Programme is to improve community assets and support community engagement in the regeneration of local areas. As part of this, Local Communities can propose projects against set criteria agreed by Sedgefield Borough Council. Through this Programme resources will be released to improve sites and improve the usability of community facilities and buildings across the Borough.

The Area 1 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. The Area Forum may recall that Area 1 was oversubscribed by £310,317 following the cut off date of 31st July 2008. Cabinet has now considered all project applications received from the Area 1 Forum locality and have allocated funding accordingly. Projects are summarised below.

Update on Project Activity

The main update since the last Area Forum meeting held in November is the approval of the Tudhoe Moor Play Area scheme submitted by Spennymoor Town Council. This project aims to replace the outdated equipment at the site and increase the amount of suitable play equipment. The proposal also includes the inclusion of a non-floodlit Multi-Use Games Area on the site of an existing small sided grass football pitch. Work will now centre on submitting a detailed planning application for submission to the Borough Council. Work on the play area is scheduled to start in the spring.

The Current Position with approved Area 1 Forum Projects:

LIP Approvals

Tudhoe Moor Family Centre	Project Complete
Middlestone Moor Play Area	Project Complete
Spennymoor Settlement	Project Complete
Ox Close Nursery	Project Complete
Ox Close Community Garden	Works ongoing
St Paul's Parish Hall	Awaiting match funding decisions
Kirk Merrington MUGA	Planning application submitted
Spennymoor Boxing Club	Technical works ongoing to confirm costs
Tudhoe Moor Play Area	Project approved 8/01/09

Reserve Project

Jubilee Park Improvements

£210,897 requested from LIP

The Area Forum will recall that a process for identifying reserve projects was set out in the previous Area Forum report. Reserve projects will only be considered if approved projects don't proceed as planned.

Next Steps

Although the application process for LIP is closed, work will continue supporting the groups who have received grants to assist with the implementation of the project. This will also include monitoring of the intended outcomes to ensure that targets outlined in the application for the residents within the locality are met. If necessary additional support will be offered by the strategy & Regeneration Division of Sedgefield Borough Council to support approved projects to achieve their intended outcomes.

In addition to this, it is clear that due to the budget pressure and the amount of schemes submitted against the funding available, not all projects have been successful. Officers from the Strategy & Regeneration Division will continue to work with these projects to assist in trying to secure additional external grant monies.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum notes the information provided on the current position of the Local Improvement Programme within Area 1.