

20th February 2007

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application - Ferryhill Sports Facility Technical Study

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 2 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 2 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. A total of £278,700 has been allocated to the year 2006/07 to the end of March 2007. £157,854 has been allocated to date.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Ferryhill Sports Facility – Technical Study
- **Name of Applicant:** Ferryhill Town Council
- **Brief Description of Project:** The overall project seeks to implement a series of improvements for enhanced sporting opportunities within the Dean Bank Park area – Ferryhill. This would include additional changing accommodation, a Synthetic Sports Area, and improved drainage to a greater number of pitches for club and community use. The application is being developed in partnership with Ferryhill Youth FC and also Durham FA.
- **Requested from LIP:** £10,000 – Technical Study
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £10,000
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The aim of this stage of the project is to fully investigate the options for the construction of a sports facility at Dean Bank Park by undertaking a Technical Study. This would include establishing an accurate project cost as well as looking at the site constraints and planning issues associated with the Park.
- **Impact of the Project:** It is expected that the project will encourage a greater number of people to become involved in local sporting activities. Ferryhill Youth FC will also be able to develop more teams and cater for increased use by young people.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**
The applicant has stated that the need for a Football / Sporting Academy was first highlighted by the 2001 Ferryhill Community Appraisal. Discussions have also taken place with the Ferryhill Community Partnership and with the Dean Bank Residents Association regarding the project. Given the FA Charter Standard status of Ferryhill Youth FC, the project has also been recognised by Durham FA as a priority project for grass routes football development and has been included in their recent Facilities Strategy.

By undertaking the study it is recognised that further consultation with various partners and residents will need to be undertaken in considering the most appropriate option.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**
By carrying out this stage of the project this will help to establish a full project cost for all elements of the scheme and inform the options available. The costs of the Technical Study will be subject to a quotation / tender process to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated.

Discussions have been held with Durham FA about future funding towards a facility of this nature should the Technical Study identify the site being suitable to meet local priorities and need.

A key issue in considering any future project proposal is to ensure that the increased revenue costs associated with maintaining a facility of this nature can be met.

- **Statutory Approvals:** Requirement of Planning Permission will be a major consideration addressed by undertaking the Technical Study.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project proposal, the applicant will work with the Strategy and Regeneration Division to inform a full appraisal of the LIP application prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decisions 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 2 locality.

If the Area Forum wish to support the undertaking of the Technical Study then a further report will be brought to the Area Forum once this Study has been completed to enable the Forum to consider the overall cost implications of the final project.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 2:

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 Council.

- Ferryhill LADDER Centre – Extension £5,000. Funding of a study to investigate the cost of provided additional space at the Ladder Centre to accommodate new community activities.
- Bishop Middleham Play Area - £69,320. Agreed to progress this scheme at the Area Forum Meeting held on 9th January.
- Duncombe Heritage Centre Development – Ferryhill. Estimated project costs £200,000. LIP grant requested approximately £100,000. Costs are currently being revised for this project.

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