

Item 5

AREA 2 FORUM

20th February 2007

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application - Ferryhill LADDER Centre – Future Expansion

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:** LADDER Centre Expansion – Technical Study
- **Name of Applicant:** Ferryhill LADDER Centre
- **Brief Description of Project:** The LADDER Centre want to expand the range of activities that are available at the current centre to cater for both a wider variety, and an increased number of uses.
- **Requested from LIP:** £5,000
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £5,000
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The aim of this stage of the project is to undertake a Technical Study to consider the options available for expansion of the LADDER Centre. This would include establishing an accurate project cost for the options available.
- **Impact of the Project:** The applicant has stated the intention is to offer a wider range of opportunities to local people and local agencies. This would include activities to promote healthier lifestyles and further combat antisocial behaviour. The centre current provides a range of activities but the space available has led to a limit of the range of activities that can be offered and the number of people who can access activities and services.
- **Evidence of need and community support:** The applicant has stated that the LADDER Centre have undertaken a range of

consultation exercises with a range of partners going back to 1998 when the idea of the centre was first considered. A recent consultation exercise in August 2006 provided evidence indicating that users and local residents would benefit from a local facility that could provide more than just training, advice and guidance. 640 questionnaires were issued and face-to-face consultation undertaken where possible.

- **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 consider the most cost effective way of extending provision at the LADDER Centre. The costs of the Technical Study will be subject to a quotation / tender process to ensure that value for money can be identified.

A key issue in considering any future project proposal is to ensure that any enhanced facility can cover the increased revenue costs associated with running and staffing a larger facility.

- **Statutory Approvals:** Planning Permission to be investigated by the 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 Sports Facility – Technical Study £10,000 requested.
- 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.

