

# Item 5

AREA 2 FORUM

26<sup>th</sup> February 2008

## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

### Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

#### Application - Bishop Middleham Village Hall

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 subject to budget approval. A total of £278,700 has been allocated to the year 2007/08. A number of projects have been supported to date to the value of £251,105, 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:** Bishop Middleham Village Hall
- **Name of Applicant:** Bishop Middleham Village Hall Association
- **Brief Description of Project:** The project will address the issues currently facing the village hall. A new roof will be installed as the current roofing needs replacing. The stage and hall floors will be replaced and new lighting and stage curtains installed. This will enable new activities such as drama groups to begin. The group also hope to make the hall more child friendly. New zoned heating will also be installed.
- **Requested from LIP:** £39,391 (92%)
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £42,691
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The applicant has stated that the LIP will be used to replace the flooring in the main hall and on the stage, replace the roof and heating. The applicant would also like to provide new stage lighting and curtains.
- **Impact of the Project:** The applicant has stated that the project will improve the hall as a whole, improving the safety of all users and will provide additional activities for young people.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**  
A questionnaire has been circulated within the users groups. The members of the committee are voluntary workers or members of the user group that are held in the hall. The applicant has stated that this has given them an insight and link with the other users as to what is lacking within the current facility.
- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**  
The applicant has applied for £39,391, which is 92% of the total project costs. The applicant aims to secure £3,300 from other sources. Quotes have been obtained for all elements 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 during the full project appraisal stage to explore a more detail predicted programme of use for the facility in order to maximise the overall possible impact of the intended project prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision-making process.

The detailed appraisal stage will also include consideration of the consultation that has been undertaken to date to assess the need for the enhanced facility.

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

That the Area Forum considers:

- The project proposal and how it will meet the priority needs of the Area 2 locality.

#### **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 Forum.

#### **Applications approved by Sedgefield Borough Council to date;**

• West Cornforth Number 66 Project Works Completed and Grant claimed.	£64,400 approved
• Chilton Environmental Improvements Works almost complete. Small amount of grant to claim	£93,455 approved
• Ferryhill LADDER Centre Technical Study Under development, still to claim grant.	£6,170 approved
• Ferryhill Sports Facility Technical Study Study received and being considered.	£11,250 approved
• Mainsforth Community Centre Approved 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2007	£75,830 Approved
Total	£251,105

### **Applications under development**

- West Cornforth Community Centre LIP grant requested approximately £90,000. Approval by Area Forum. Working to progress.
- Dean Bank Institute LIP grant requested £50,000. Approved by Area Forum. Working with applicant to resolve queries and await decisions on match funding.
- Miners Welfare Park, Chilton- Chilton Town Council- £169,471. Approved by Area Forum. Working with applicant to resolve queries and await confirmation of match funding.

### **Applications to be discussed at Area Forum**

- Ferryhill Sports Facility Technical Study – Update on the work of the consultants.

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