

Item 6

AREA 2 FORUM

24th June 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application - Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute- Gala Room- Extension of Facility

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 number of projects have been supported to date to the value of £370,498 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:** Gala Room Extension of Facility
- **Name of Applicant:** Dean Bank and Ferryhill Literary Institute
- **Brief Description of Project:** This project replaces the previous learning room LIP application. The project will involve the removal of the wall between the Gala and Cabin rooms and replace it with sound proof sliding doors. This will give the flexibility to allow the room to be used as one large room or 2 medium sized rooms. The project will also include installing an acoustic floor system to the room directly above.
- **Requested from LIP:** £35,825 (78%)
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £45,825
- **Impact of the Project:** The applicant has stated that the new project will enable the centre to offer better equipped and larger rooms to groups and users which would enable the Dean and Chapter room to attract more users / activities and indeed more use from the current groups and users. The project would also enable the centre to offer larger numbers on courses without affecting other bookings.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**
The applicant has stated that the project was developed mainly due to the number of bookings being refused. A copy of the programme of use has been provided to show the current usage of the existing large room and the smaller rooms to be developed.
- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**
The applicant has applied for £30,000, which is 75% of the total project costs. The applicant has committed £5000 of their own funds and £5000 from the Neighbourhood Enhancement programme. The project will be obtaining 3 quotes for the work. All revenue costs will be covered by the applicant organisation.

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	£64,400
• Chilton Environmental Improvements	£93,455
• Ferryhill LADDER Centre Technical Study	£6,170
• Ferryhill Sports Facility Technical Study	£11,250
• Mainsforth Community Centre	£75,830
• West Cornforth Community Centre	£119,393
Total	£370,498

Applications under development

- 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

- Football Facilities at Dean Bank Park, LIP requested £320,000

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