AREA 2 FORUM

17th February 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 2 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. The Area Forum may recall that Area 2 was oversubscribed by £211,496 following the cut off date of 31st July 2008. Cabinet has now considered all project applications received from the Area 2 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 progress made with regard to the Football facility at Dean Bank Park, Ferryhill.

In January 2009 the Ferryhill Town Council received clarification that a grant of £705,839 has been awarded from the Football Foundation towards the implementation of the project. Coupled with LIP funding from Sedgefield Borough Council this will result in the realisation of a £1m proposal in Dean Bank Park.

The next steps for the project will be to start preparing detailed specifications for the tender documents and put the project out to open tender to obtain a competitive price for the works.

It is hoped that subject to this tender exercise work will start on the project in early summer. Given the nature of the works involved work is likely to start on the proposed pitches first and then the new build club facility.

As the changes will be extensive, Ferryhill Town Youth FC will decant their facilities in the Park and temporarily relocate at Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College until the works are complete.

The Current Position with approved Area 2 Forum Projects:

LIP Approvals

Number 66 Cornforth Partnership	Project Complete
Chilton Env. Imp. Programme	Project Complete
Mainsforth Community Centre	Project Complete
Dean Bank Institute Gala Room	Project Complete
West Cornforth Comm Centre	Work started January 09
Bishop Middleham Village Hall	Work ongoing
Ferryhill Football Project	Planning Application Approved, Match funding secured.
Pentlands Play	Planning Application submitted

Reserve Project

Chilton Welfare Park	£169,471 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.

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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Area Forum participants for their involvement in shaping the LIP programme over the past 3 years. The comments made through the Area Forum process have been valuable in helping to challenge project ideas and ensure we get quality schemes that benefit the local community.

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 2.