

# Item 5

## AREA 3 FORUM

25<sup>th</sup> 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 3 Forum has been allocated £532,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. The Area Forum may recall that Area 3 was oversubscribed by £116,501 following the cut off date of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008. Cabinet has now considered all project applications received from the Area 3 Forum locality and have allocated funding accordingly. Projects are summarised below.

#### The Current Position with approved Area 3 Forum Projects:

##### LIP Approvals

Trimdon MUGA	Project Complete
Trimdon Centre Fees	Project complete
Sedgefield Parish Hall Phase 1	Project complete
Ceddesfeld Hall Technical Study	Project complete
Fishburn Memorial Playing Field	Project complete
Fishburn Rec Dev Technical Study	Project complete
Sedgefield Parish Hall Phase 2	Project complete
Trimdon Comm Coll Muga Technical Study	Project complete
Trimdon Comm Coll Muga	Project complete
Trimdon Grange Play Area	Project complete
Ceddesfeld Hall Redevelopment	Planning application submitted, Majority of match funding now secured. Project due to start March/April.
Sedgefield Cricket Club	Discussions with planning have meant design changed, planning application should be formally submitted shortly

## **Reserve Projects**

Trimdon Community Centre	£90,000
Sedgefield Squash Club	£33,000

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 3.