

# Item 5

AREA 4 FORUM

23<sup>RD</sup> September 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

## Update on Project Activity

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 Borough Council established a 'cut-off' date for new LIP applications of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008. This date was established to ensure that as we are in the final year of the scheme, that we had sufficient time to appraise and prioritise projects before the end of the programme in March 2009. A number of projects have been received for consideration by the Borough Council. These are summarised below.

The Area 4 Forum has been allocated £456,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. This level of resource is available for community organisations and partner Town and Parish Council's to bid for to fund a range of eligible project activity.

### LIP Approvals to date

Hackworth Tennis Courts	£34,999
Civic Hall Lighting and Stage	£7,727
Jubilee Fields Community Centre	£75,000
<b>Total Approved to date</b>	<b>£117,726</b>

**Total Funding Remaining** **£338,274**

### LIP Applications Received

Vintage Vehicles*
Sildon Peoples Centre*
Eldon Community Centre*
Sildon Railway Sports Field
Sildon Scout Memorial Field
Hackworth Park Play Area
Hackworth Park Pavilion Project
East Thickley Farm Project
<b>Total Requested from LIP</b>

### LIP Funding Requested

£67,125
£34,487
£138,638
£209,220
£129,000
£106,647
£353,113
£100,000
<b>£1,138,230</b>

*\* Projects discussed at a previous area forum meeting*

**Difference**

**+ £799,956**

The above table illustrates that we are over subscribed against the money remaining in the LIP Budget. This picture has been repeated across all other Area Forum Areas.

### **Project Proposals to be considered**

#### **Shildon Railway Sports Field Changing Facility – Shildon Railway Sports and Social Club.**

This project aims to provide new changing facility to fulfil modern needs for all players, the present dressing rooms are too small and cannot handle present requirements regarding male, female junior and disabled sports people. The applicant has stated that the facility will attract more young people to take part in the offered sports. Improved facilities at the club would encourage increased membership and use of the facility thereby giving a longer lifespan to the club. The applicant has applied for **£209,220** which is **100%** of the total project cost.

#### **Shildon Scout Memorial Field Building – Shildon Scout Memorial Field Trust**

This project is to redesign the present toilet/changing facility, which will provide modern new changing facility and a small meeting area. This will create space for community activities such as meetings, youth activities, children play groups. The applicant has stated that the project would have a beneficial effect on the local community targeting mainly children, amateur football, scouts groups, voluntary organisation etc. The applicant has applied for **£129,000** which is **100%** of the total project cost.

#### **Hackworth Park Extension of Play Facility – Shildon Town Council**

This project aims to provide an extension of the range of opportunities for play by incorporating traditional fixed play, natural play and inclusive fitness equipment in an area that can be used by all ages. The applicant has stated that the targeted beneficiaries of the project are primarily the people of Shildon of all ages, however it is also anticipated that the unique opportunities created by this project will attract users from the surrounding areas. The applicant has applied for **£106,647** which is **82%** of the total project capital cost.

#### **Hackworth Park Pavilion Project – Shildon Town Council**

The aim of this project involves the replacement of the existing tennis/bowl pavilion in Hackworth Park with a new facility and is part of a larger overall scheme which also included the extension of the existing play area. The applicant has stated that it is proposed that the replacement bowl/tennis pavilion will include baby changing facilities to support the nearby under 5 year olds play area. In addition the replacement pavilion will provide a communal area which would have the potential to be utilised by participants and spectators alike. This communal area could also be made available, on demand, as a meeting space for relevant sports clubs and community groups. The applicant has applied for **£353,113** which is **100%** of the total project capital cost.

### **East Thickley Farm Project – Shildon Community Museum**

The aim of this project is to provide a Community Museum on the site of East Thickley Farm. The applicant has stated that as the site was previously operated as a working farm, this will allow them to display the exhibits in a sympathetic setting, and to preserve two Dutch Barns. Together with the remaining farm outbuildings it will allow provision of a covered outside display area, equipment storage and various workshops, office/staff area, indoor display area, and tearoom, visitor reception and restrooms. The applicant has also stated that the effects of the museum are expected to be several new jobs, creation of new educational and training resource, facilitation of the maintenance of traditional skills, assist in the regeneration of Shildon by providing an additional attraction. The applicant has applied for **£100,000** which is **13%** of the total project capital cost. The applicant is also looking to secure a £650,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has not yet been applied for.

### **Projects already discussed at Area Forum**

The following projects were discussed at previous Area Forums. Information on these projects has also been included in this report so that Area Forum can see projects aspirations against other projects already considered and supported by the Area Forum but not yet approved by Sedgfield Borough Council.

#### **Vintage Vehicles**

The project aims to improve access to and within the site and to enhance the visitor experience of the museum. The proposed works include provision of accessible entry to the exhibition area, refurbishment of existing toilet area providing baby changing and disabled toilets facility, refurbishment of the resource room, provision of internal interpretation material and reception area, along with provision of kitchen and catering facility. The applicant has applied for **£67,125** which is **54%** of the total project costs.

#### **Shildon Peoples Centre**

The project comprises of a refurbishment of the Shildon People's Centre – this includes the erection of a conservatory, installation of double glazing, refurbishment of kitchen/café area. The applicant has stated that activities which the centre aim to provide as a result would include, healthy eating courses, education courses, first aid courses, youth activities, yoga, keep fit, mother and toddler, weight watchers, over 60's tea club and cookery club. The applicant has applied for **£34,487** which is **77%** of the total project costs.

#### **Eldon Community Centre**

The aim of this project is to provide a community centre for the residents of Eldon Village. The people of Eldon have no building to have meetings or hold events, therefore the provision of a community centre would provide a building

for all age groups of the community to meet and participate in social, educational and healthy activities. The applicant has stated that a new community centre would provide a building for members of the community to use the facilities provided. The centre plans to hold youth activities reducing anti-social behaviour and promote a healthier community. The applicant has applied for **£138,638** which is 87% of the total project costs.

### **Current Position**

Given that the Local Improvement Programme is in its final year of operation (3-year programme from April 2006 – March 2009), the Capital Programme Team are keen to make progress on applications quickly given the timescales for decision making in the run up to the close of the scheme.

### **Next Steps**

Given the amount of projects that have been submitted within the Area 4 locality and the available monies within the Local Improvement Programme for Area 4, the Capital Programme Team will now work in more detail with all applicants to discuss the impact and outcomes expected from the project and look at key issues such as local priorities and the deliverability of the overall project within the timeframe remaining for the LIP Programme. This will assist in the task of prioritising projects that will be taken through the decision making process of Sedgefield Borough Council.

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

That the Area Forum considers the above list of projects and offers any comments about the projects in relation to priorities for the Area 4 locality and how each project will meet local needs. Representatives from the projects will be available to answer questions if necessary.