

Item 5

AREA 5 FORUM

25th July 2006

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Area Improvement Programme

Application Report - Greenfield School Sports Facility

Introduction

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 5 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to formulate a report and recommendation to the Sedgefield Borough Council Cabinet.

The Area 5 Forum has been allocated £1,140,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009, none of which has been allocated to date. A total of £380,000 has been allocated to the year 2006/07.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Additional Community Changing Accommodation / Admin area
- **Name of Applicant:** Greenfield School Community and Arts College.
- **Legal Status:** Community and Extended School
- **Date of Application:** 4th April 2006
- **Landlord:** Durham County Council
- **Brief Description of Project:** A new sports hall is currently being built on the site, funded through the New Opportunities Fund – PE & Sport in School Programme. However, due to cost overruns elsewhere in the Programme, there are insufficient funds to provide the necessary community changing accommodation and admin / reception area that is needed to provide the infrastructure to enable the community to become actively engaged in sport and leisure activities on the Greenfield site.

In order to keep costs down, the applicant is proposing to purchase a portable building and fully refurbish it to provide the changing complex and admin / reception area. Artists Impressions of the development and room layout plans will be available at the Area Forum.

- **Requested from LIP:** £60,000 (47%)
- **Total Project Cost:** £126,781 (Capital)
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The project will provide community changing accommodation and an administration / reception area for the new sports hall. The LIP funding will pay for a proportion (47%) of the work. The works include refurbishment of the portable buildings, provision of a link corridor to the sports hall, and associated land works such as ramps and footpaths to the entrance.

A full breakdown of costs is as follows:

New Portable Building	£38,173
Refurbishment works to Portable Buildings	£11,592
New glazed corridor to connect to Sports Hall	£38,261
Furniture, Power, Lighting, Heating	£7,500
Entrance Ramps to unit	£5,556
Footpath to unit	£467
Fees	£15,232
Contingency Sum	£10,000
Total Project Costs	£126,781

LIP Criteria

- **ODPM Definition:** **Yes**
The project is taking place on previously unused land with the aim of providing additional community resources on site.
- **Community Strategy Objectives:**
The applicant has stated that the project contributes towards the Healthy Borough objectives. The extended school facilities will increase access for young people and the wider community to both formal and informal leisure and recreational opportunities. The project also has links to Strong Communities, namely providing safe neighbourhoods. Activities directed through sport will help reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour by providing alternative activities for young people through provision of structures 'out of hours' uses. A programme of activities will be planned with partner clubs and organisations to increase the opportunities for those most at risk of offending. There is also a link to An Attractive Borough – 'Develop and maximise the leisure and cultural facilities in the borough'. This project aims to ensure that the sports hall has the relevant facilities in order that it can be used by the community to its full potential.
- **Evidence of need and community support:**
A full needs assessment was undertaken as part of the New Opportunities Fund process that saw a £800,000 award towards the Sports Halls costs. There was poor school based community provision in an area of high deprivation. The construction of the sports hall without changing

accommodation / admin area presents a short-term problem for the community groups and sports clubs who have expressed an interest in using the sports hall. Extensive consultation has been entered into with a range of sports clubs within the Newton Aycliffe area to determine their needs. Greenfield School is an active member of the Newton Aycliffe Sports Forum and Sedgefield Borough Sporting Hub.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**

As highlighted previously, the applicants are applying for 47% of the overall capital costs and have fully secured the remaining costs from their own funds. Durham LEA will provide a budget adjustment upon completion for rates, heating, lighting and cleaning based upon the total floor size of the building. It is anticipated that income from the hiring of the facility will sustain various staff including sports assistants, community manager etc.

A competitive tendering process for the whole of the NOF - PE & Sport in School Programme has been entered into by the County Council. The contractors currently building the sports hall have priced the work associated with the changing room complex. Discussions are ongoing with the County Council to establish the scope of the original tender to ensure that Value for Money can be identified from only one quote.

- **Legal Issues:** **All satisfactory**

- **Statutory Approvals:** **All in place**

Issues

Durham County Council who own the school site are currently embarking on a 4 Phase - Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Project across the County. Greenfield School falls into the second Phase of planned investment with the school scheduled for redevelopment in approximately 6 – 8 years time. Subject to Government funding, this project will redevelop and modernise the school to provide a modern learning environment for both pupils and the wider community.

Therefore any investment directed to the school needs to be protected to ensure that if the school site is redeveloped as part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme, that the investment made is either kept on site or preferably modernised in line with the rest of the school to enhance the level of opportunity to the community.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers the following key issues:

- The relative priority of this project within the Newton Aycliffe / Area 5 locality.
- The needs of local Sports Clubs in utilising a facility such as this for community based sport & leisure opportunities.

- The life span of the project given the issues of the Building Schools for the Future Programme for the overall school site.

Subject to being happy with the above points that the Area Forum support the progress of this application.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 5:

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.

- Great Aycliffe Way extension and Nature Park- Great Aycliffe Town Council- LIP amount £204,505, Total project cost £204,505
- Aycliffe Village Environmental Improvements- Great Aycliffe Town Council- LIP amount £105,000, Total project cost £157,400

The following projects are under development and no application has been received to date. Once applications are received these projects will be brought forward to the Forum for debate.

- Woodham Community Centre – refurbishment of the Community centre to enable additional activities to be provided- No costs as yet