

**Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration**

**Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme**

**Application - Woodham Village Community Centre Rejuvenation**

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 5 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 5 Forum has been allocated £1,140,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. A total of £380,000 has been allocated to the year 2006/07 of which £183,505 has been allocated to date.

**Project Background**

- **Name of Project:** Woodham Village Community Centre Rejuvenation
- **Name of Applicant:** Woodham Village Community Centre.
- **Landlord:** The Trustees
- **Brief Description of Project:** The aim of the project is to completely refurbish and modernise the village community centre, which would provide up to date flooring, lighting, more useable meeting room and kitchen. It would then enable the Community Centre to provide more varied physical activities along with adult education and skill training courses.
- **Requested from LIP:** £25,200 (100%)
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £25,200 (Capital)
- **ODPM Definition:**  
The applicant has advised us that the building is not used to it's full potential and is in need of rejuvenation thereby bringing the building back into effective use.
- **What will the LIP be used for:**  
The refurbishment will include, electrical work to install new lighting, replacement flooring in both the main hall and meeting room, kitchen unit replacement and additional storage facilities to cater for greater community use.

- **Impact of the Project:**

The applicant has stated that the refurbishment will help to secure the regeneration of the centre to bring it into more effective use and cater for a greater variety of use.

Many of the anticipated new activities will target young unemployed people, providing them with a range of new education and skills training courses. In addition to this it is the aim of the applicant to provide more varied casual physical activities within the centre including the provision of healthy eating courses. The applicant has stated that changes to the meeting rooms and kitchen will allow the building to be used more flexibly and provide a greater range of space that is appropriate to the size of the respective user groups thereby enabling a greater variety of activities.

The applicant has stated that the project links to three of the four community strategy objectives. These are Healthy Borough – Improving the health and well being of the local community, by creating a suitable venue for keep-fit, Dance, Taekwondo classes and healthy eating classes. Attractive Borough – develop and maximise leisure and cultural facilities in the Borough. Strong Communities – Creating a safe neighbourhood by helping to combat any anti-social behaviour, providing a facility for the young people in the village to use.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**

The applicant has stated that the Management Committee together with the Centre Manager have had discussions with the community and all groups using the centre to identify the current and future demands of the centre activities.

Subject to endorsement by the Area Forum at this stage, the Strategy & Regeneration Division will work with the applicant during the full appraisal process to explore a more detail predicted programme of use for the facility in order to maximise the overall impact of the project.

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

The applicant has applied for £25,200, which is 100% of the total project costs. Discussions have taken place with the applicant to consider other match funding opportunities. The associated on-going revenue costs will be funded by the applicant's own funds through grant funding and appropriate charging to users of the premises.

Three estimates for each of the main parts of the work on the building have been obtained, from local contractors.

- **Statutory Approvals:** Requirement of Planning Permission and Building Regulation consent is to be confirmed.

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

That the Area Forum considers:

- The project proposal, and how it would meet the priority needs of the Area 5 locality.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project proposal, the applicant will work with the Strategy and Regeneration Division to further develop the LIP application prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decisions making process.

### **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.

- Middridge Village Association – refurbishment of the Village Hall to enable additional activities to be provided – LIP requested £68,965. Total project cost £74,965.

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