

# Item 7

AREA 5 FORUM

13<sup>th</sup> March 2007

## Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

### Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

#### Application - Rebuild of premises for Newton Aycliffe MIND

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 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:** New MIND - Phase 1 Technical Study
- **Name of Applicant:** Newton Aycliffe MIND
- **Legal Status:** Registered Charity
- **Date of Application:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007
- **Landlord:** Great Aycliffe Town Council.
- **Brief Description of Project:** New Mind is a project that seeks to build a new centre on its current site to a specification that will lead to a significant expansion and improvement to the service that it provides. MIND works with adults aged 18yrs and above with mental health difficulties who benefit from a higher level of support that can not be achieved through statutory health provision.
- **Requested from LIP:** £9,750
- **Total Project Cost:** £9,750 (Capital)
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The Technical Study will provide MIND with a detailed specification and plans; costings of the building prior to planning consent; a detailed timetable for the project and any other associated costs.

- **Impact of the Project**  
The new building will enable the organisation to dramatically expand its services. The Applicant will expand and develop an alternative therapy approach to treatment. Providing access to educational courses such as basic skills, support into work, IT training, personal wellbeing and leisure courses. MIND intends to promote the development of a healthy lifestyle by encouraging a reduction in smoking and drinking and an improvement in diet and exercise.
- **Evidence of need and community support:**  
The Friends of Mind (clients) have been actively involved in the inception of this project. The Friends of MIND all agreed to the unsuitability of the present building and claimed that a new building would see their greater use of the organisations services. MIND are in discussion with Great Aycliffe Town Council regarding lease extension.
- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**  
As highlighted previously, the applicants are applying for 100% of the overall Technical Study costs. The Technical Study will be undertaken by Sedgefield Borough Council's Property Services section.
- **Statutory Approvals:** Requirement of Planning Permission will be a major consideration addressed by the Technical Study.
- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**  
By carrying out a Technical Study at this stage of the project will establish a full project cost for all elements of the scheme and inform the options available.

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 inform a full appraisal of the LIP application prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision making process.

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

That the Area Forum considers:

- The project proposal and how it will meet the priority needs of the area 5 locality and the wider Borough.

If the Area Forum wishes to support the undertaking of the Technical Study then a further report will be brought to the Area Forum once this study has been completed to enable the Forum to consider the overall cost implications of the final project.

#### **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.

### **LIP Projects Approved**

- Great Aycliffe Way Extension & Nature Park LIP Grant approved £183,505

### **LIP Projects under development**

- Middridge Village Community Centre LIP Grant requested £76,485
- Woodham Village Community Centre LIP Grant requested £25,200

These two projects will be taken through the decision making process of the Borough Council at the end of March 2007.

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