

Item 5

AREA 5 FORUM

10th March 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 5 Forum has been allocated £1,140,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. The Area Forum may recall that Area 5 was oversubscribed by £208,065 following the cut off date of 31st July 2008. Cabinet has now considered all project applications received from the Area 5 Forum locality and have allocated funding accordingly. Approved projects are summarised below.

The Current Position with approved Area 5 Forum Projects:

LIP Approvals

Gt Aycliffe Way	Project Complete
Middridge Village Hall	Project Complete
Woodham Community Centre	Project Complete
Neville Parade Comm Centre	Project Complete
Neville Parade Methodist church	Project Complete
Simpasture Park Refurbishment	Project Complete
Moore Lane Refurbishment	Work ongoing
Newton Aycliffe Sporting Club	Work ongoing
St Oswalds Park	Work ongoing
Agnew Centre	Planning Application submitted

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 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 5.