

Item 6

AREA 4 FORUM

18th July 2006

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Area Improvement Programme

Information Report

Introduction

This report highlights the Local Improvement Programme (LIP) and the potential for funding in the Area 4 Forum locality.

Programme Background

The Local Improvement Programme forms part of the Housing Land Capital Receipts Programme, which was approved by Cabinet in June 2005. In total, £3.8 million has been allocated over 3 years to 2008 / 09 for the Local Improvement Programme across the Borough to tackle the issues as outlined in the community strategy. This will be achieved by a range of interventions including creating new resources and supporting community engagement in the regeneration of the Borough.

Local communities and partner Town and Parish Councils can submit project proposals at any time. These are appraised and scored and then discussed at the Area Forum meeting. The Area Forum role is key in providing a view as to the priority of the project within their area. The project is then tabled at the Management Team of the council and then Cabinet, who will assess the project and decide which projects are supported.

Criteria

Projects eligible for support through the Local Improvement Programme **must** demonstrate that the project meets the following key criteria:

- Conformity to the newly created Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) Regeneration criteria which states;
'the carrying out of works or activities on any land where the land or a building on the land is vacant, unused, underused, ineffectively used, contaminated or derelict; and the works or activities carried out in order to secure that the land or the building will be brought into effective use'

Examples of such projects include the renovation of derelict land to create a children's play area or the renovation of a derelict building to provide a drop in centre.

All projects must demonstrate the additionality i.e. extra activities or facilities, which will be provided upon receipt of any grant.

- Clear linkages to the delivery of the Council's Community Strategy and its key aims and planned outcomes.

Projects are also expected to meet the following secondary criteria:

- The project should have carried out appropriate levels of community consultation. A clear need for the project must have been identified.
- The project should have specific measurable benefits.
- The project should have considered how any recurrent or revenue funding implications will be managed.
- Value for money should clearly be demonstrated, to include any match funding from other grant sources as well as accessing a minimum of 3 quotes regarding the proposals of work.
- Where the applicant is a Town or Parish Council, there should be a financial contribution of at least one third of the total costs of the project, to ensure that the resources made available are addressing local priorities as well as those of the council.

Allocation for Area 4, Shildon

To date, we have not received any projects, which meet the criteria above, and therefore the full amounts highlighted below are available.

| Forum allocation (Net) | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2006/ 07 | 2007 / 8 | 2008 /09 | Total |
| £152,000 | £152,000 | £152,000 | £456,000 |

Applicants should be aware that the allocation available is for the whole Area Forum locality therefore we do not anticipate funding projects to a high value.

It is however, important to note that there is no pressure to spend allocated budgets within any financial year. Unspent money will be rolled forward and protected for that forum area.

Further Details

Further details on the Local Improvement Programme are available from the Strategy and Regeneration section, Sedgefield Borough Council:

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Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

It is recommended that the report is noted and any interested groups contact the Community Project Development Officer to discuss initial project ideas.

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