

Item 7

AREA 4 FORUM

17th April 2007

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application – Technical Report - Bike Swop Shop & Repair/Hire Centre and Drop In Centre

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 4 Forum for their consideration and comments which will be used to formulate a report and recommendation to the Sedgefield Borough Council Cabinet.

The Area 4 Forum has been allocated £456,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. A total of £152,000 has been allocated to the year 2007/08 of which £0 has been allocated to date. Additional capacity from 2006/2007 remains to be confirmed, and re-profiled into future years budgets.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Bike Swop Shop & Repair/Hire Centre, & Drop In Centre – Technical Report
- **Name of Applicant:** The Pilgrim Club
- **Legal Status:** Registered Charity
- **Date of Application:** 25th February 2007
- **Landlord:** Sedgefield Borough Council & National Railway Museum
- **Brief Description of Project:** The Pilgrim Club Bike Swop Shop is a project that seeks to develop a new centre on the current site of the Soho Goods Shed to a specification that will provide a dedicated workshop for the repair and refurbishment of bicycles, and a drop in centre for young people. The Pilgrim Club was set up to provide adventure and outdoor activities for young people between the ages of eight and eighteen.
- **Requested from LIP:** £9,000
- **Total Project Cost:** £9,000 (Capital)
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The Technical Report will provide The Pilgrim Club with a detailed specification and plans; costings of the

alterations to the building prior to planning consent; a detailed timetable for the project and any other associated costs.

- **ODPM Definition:**
The applicant has stated that the building, a former Goods Shed, on the site of Locomotion Shildon, is ineffectively used at present, and is limited in layout for the proposed use. This project will finance a Technical Report, which will lead to development of the building becoming more suitable to the needs of The Pilgrim Club.
- **Impact of the Project**
The applicant has stated that the changes to the building will enable the organisation to dramatically expand its activities to include the possibility of a Social Enterprise comprising of Bike Hire to visitors to the Museum and its locality. The alterations to the building will allow the Applicant to provide a workshop for the repair and refurbishment of bicycles and also a drop in centre for young people. This will enable them to expand and develop their activities with young people, providing a variety of skills that are helpful in gaining employment, independence, confidence, and social skills.
- **Evidence of need and community support:**
The Pilgrim Club Members have been actively involved in the inception of this project. A Children and Young Peoples Network Survey has taken place.
- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**
As highlighted previously, the applicants are applying for 100% of the overall Technical Report costs. The Technical Report will be undertaken by Sedgefield Borough Council's Property Services section.
- **Statutory Approvals:** Requirement of Planning Permission will be a major consideration addressed by undertaking the Technical Study.
- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**
By carrying out a Technical Report at this stage of the project will establish a full project cost for all elements of the scheme and inform the options available.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers:

- Area 4 has been allocated a total of £152,000 for 2007/08 of which £0 has been allocated to date.
- The project proposal, and how it will meet the priority needs of the area 4 locality and the wider Borough.

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 Sedgfield Borough Council's decisions making process.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 4:

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

2006/2007 Allocation - Hackworth Park Tennis Courts. £34,999.

LIP Projects under development

Other applications received from Area 4:

No further applications have been received from the Area 4 locality at the present time.

The following projects are under development and no applications have been received to date. Once an application is received this project will be brought forward to the Forum for debate.

- Shildon Community Museum Limited – To renovate derelict buildings to form a community museum at East Thicklely Farm. No costs as yet.
- South West Durham Credit Union- To bring the derelict rear of the shop area into use to extend the facilities. No costs as yet.
- Shildon Centre – To refurbish the centre for more efficient and extended use. No costs as yet.
- Jubilee Community Centre – Extension to building. No costs as yet.

This page is intentionally left blank