

Item 6

AREA 4 FORUM

25th September 2007

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application - SHILDON SCOUTS MEMORIAL FIELD BUILDING – Technical Study.

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 4 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 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 approved to date. A project was allocated in the previous year for this area, and there is some additional under-spend resulting from last year, which will be available to the Area Forum for additional project activity.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Shildon Scouts Memorial Field Trust Building – Technical Study
- **Location:** West Road Shildon.
- **Name of Applicant:** Shildon Scouts Memorial Field Trust.
- **Brief Description of Project:**

This application is requesting funding to carry out a Technical Study with a view to looking at options of refurbishing the existing vandalised changing room facility based at Shildon Scouts Memorial Field. The project will look at the possibility to include provision for football, both male and female, an area suitable for indoor games such as kwik cricket, short tennis, indoor hockey, netball and badminton which could also be used as a community space. The applicant will work with partners to invest in the new facilities, skills and programmes.

- **Requested from LIP: £4,113 (100%) Technical Study**
- **Total Estimated Project Cost: £4,113**

- **What will the LIP be used for:**

The aim of this stage of the project is appraise the project and consider costed options for the refurbishment of the existing vandalised changing facility. To develop plans/designs of the options to be considered, provide budget costs and an indicative timetable for the project.

Impact of the Project:

The applicant has stated that the project should have a beneficial effect on the local community targeting mainly children and voluntary organisations. The building has been vandalised to such an extent that the changing rooms have now become unusable. The building does not have any female toilet or changing facilities therefore is has been unable to offer it for use to mixed groups of the community, change of this facility would enable it to be offered to female football teams, and other groups interested in sports activities. If the option of a meeting room was considered to be possible this would then open the facility to a wider range of the community as there is a lack of suitable venues in this area of the town for community activities. It is hoped that the project would reduce anti social behaviour and vandalism if the facility were to be used on a more regular basis.

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

The applicant has stated that as the facility has been unused for two years due to massive vandalism and that by undertaking the study it is recognised that further consultation with various partners and residents will need to be undertaken in considering the most appropriate option. The applicant has stated that they have had some favourable feedback from some groups in the town. At least one scout group has expressed an interest in using the facility. The Pilgrim Club are interested in using the facility on a regular basis for some of their activities and other users say they will consider using the facility if it becomes available. There is interest for summer activities i.e. sports days and other one off activities and an interest as a venue for children's parties as there is a lack of suitable venues in this area of the town for community activities. The trustees have a representative on the Shildon Children and Young Peoples Action Network programme (SCYPAN) and consultation will take place with this organisation.

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 the links with other facilities, and also look at 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:**

By carrying out this stage of the project this will help to establish a full project cost for all elements of the scheme and inform the options available.

A key issue in considering any future project proposal is to ensure that the increased revenue costs associated with maintaining a facility of this nature can be met.

Statutory Approvals:

- Requirement of Planning Permission will be a major consideration addressed by undertaking the Technical Study.

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 decisions making.

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 4 locality.

If the Area Forum wish to support the undertaking of the Technical Study then a further more detailed 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 proposed final project.

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.

Shildon Vintage Vehicles Ltd Technical Study requesting £14,675.

Projects endorsed by Area Forum and awaiting decision by SBC.

Pilgrim Club Technical Study requesting £9,000

Projects Approved to date:

2006/07	Hackworth Tennis Courts	£34,999.00
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