

Item 6

AREA 4 FORUM

20th November 2007

Report of Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application - Stage Sound and Lighting System, Shildon Civic Hall

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 £4,113 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:** Stage Sounds And Lighting System, Shildon Civic Hall
- **Name of Applicant:** Shildon Town Council
- **Brief Description of Project:**
The project will replace the fixed sound and lighting equipment, encouraging groups to use the stage area and attracting new users to the civic hall. The sound and lighting currently available is obsolete and a barrier to the usage of the building for many users.
- **Requested from LIP: £7,060 (66%)**
- **Total Estimated Project Cost: £10,591**
- **Impact of the Project:**

The applicant has indicated that the provision of up to date sound and lighting will increase the usage of the building and safeguard the current users. The existing sound and lighting is archaic and the majority of it is unusable. The applicant feels that updated equipment would attract further events and ensure that the current users do not seek alternative venues. This is the start of a larger project for the civic hall. The town council will be looking at a feasibility study of the whole

building. This project has been brought forward to address an urgent need whilst the larger project is being developed.

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

The applicant has stated that the range and scope of events and performances which the Civic Hall can currently accommodate is limited because of the inadequacy of the stage sound and lighting system. Letters of support have been received from current users of the building confirming this. No further community consultation has occurred.

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:**

The total project cost is £10,591, of which the applicant has applied for £7060 (66%). The remaining funding will be applied for from the Arts Council. If this is unsuccessful, Shildon Town Council will contribute this amount. Future revenue costs will be absorbed into the town council's precept.

Statutory Approvals:

- No planning permission will be required.

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.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project, the Strategy & Regeneration Division will work with the applicant to resolve the above issues, and clarify any additional points raised through the Area Forum process

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 4:

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
2007/08 Shildon Scouts Memorial Field Technical Study	£4,113

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