

Item 6

AREA 4 FORUM

4TH March 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Application - Replacement Bowls & Tennis Pavilion – 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 subject to budget approval. 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:** Replacement Bowls and Tennis Pavilion Technical Study
- **Name of Applicant:** Shildon Town Council
- **Brief Description of Project:**
This application is requesting funding to carry out a Technical Study with a view to designing a new pavilion to replace the existing tennis/bowls pavilion in Hackworth Park. It is proposed that the facility will provide a much-improved facility for existing and new users. The design will include baby-changing facilities, toilet facility, changing facility for both bowlers and tennis players, and communal area. The design will be based on the replacement pavilion occupying approximately the same footprint as the existing building.
- **Requested from LIP: £15,000 (87%)**
- **Total Estimated Project Cost: £17,250**
- **What will LIP be used for:**
The aim at this stage of the project is to consider the project and the costed options for the replacement of the existing facility. To develop plans/designs of the options to be considered, consulting with existing and potential new users, provide budget costs and an indicative timetable for the project.

- **Impact of the Project:**

The applicant has stated that the improvement in facilities linked to the refurbishment of the tennis courts will result in increased participation in tennis and possibly outdoor bowls. The addition of a baby changing/young persons' facility would result in extended visits to the adjacent play area(s). The pavilion will not be specifically targeted to any particular age group but will be able to support all ages. It is intended that the new design will include a communal area, which could be made available, on demand, as a meeting space for relevant sports clubs and community groups.

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

The applicant has stated that consultation was undertaken on the basis of a replacement pavilion rather than on ideas for projects because of the need to provide the facility to support the refurbished tennis courts, existing Bowling Green and play areas. The project is supported by the local community groups/organisations by letters of support. Community consultation has resulted in some signed statements of support from local residents. Consultation will be ongoing during the time of the technical study.

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 a more detail predicted programme of use for the facility in order to maximise the overall impact of the project and consider the timescale for developing a full LIP application.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**

The total project cost for a Technical Study is £17,250, of which the applicant has applied for £15,000 (87%). Shildon Town Council will provide the remaining funding. Future revenue costs will be absorbed into the town council's precept. It is expected that a further application for funding through the Local Improvement Programme will be submitted following the results of the technical study.

Statutory Approvals:

- Planning permission will be applied for once plans are completed.

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 clarify any additional points raised through the Area Forum process

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 4:

Applications under development:

Fox and Hounds Community Inn
Shildon Vintage Vehicles Ltd.

Projects endorsed by Area Forum and awaiting decision by SBC.

Pilgrim Club Technical Study requesting £9,000
Shildon Civic Hall Sound & Lighting £7,060

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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