

Item 5

AREA 4 FORUM

8th July 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Update on Project Activity

This report provides the Area Forum with an update on project activity as part of Sedgefield Borough Council's Local Improvement Programme (LIP).

The purpose of the LIP Programme is to improve community assets and support community engagement in the regeneration of local areas. As part of this, Local Communities can propose projects against set criteria agreed by Sedgefield Borough Council. Through this Programme resources will be released to improve sites and improve the usability of community facilities and buildings across the Borough.

The Area 4 Forum has been allocated £456,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. This level of resource is available for community organisations and partner Town and Parish Council's to bid for to fund a range of eligible project activity. The Local Improvement Programme will close to new applications on 31st July 2008.

Projects Funded to date within the Area 4 Forum locality

Hackworth Tennis Courts	£34,999
Sildon Scouts Memorial Field Technical Study	£4,113
Hackworth Park Pavilion Technical Study	£15,000
Sildon Civic Hall Stage Sound and Lighting	<u>£7,727</u>

Updates on projects previously considered by the Area Forum:

Fox & Hounds Community Inn

This project has now been rejected. The decision is based on the primary fact that from assessing the current lease received for the premises, the main use of the facility is as a public house. As such it is not deemed appropriate in this instance to allocate LIP funding to the future development of this facility.

Sildon Scout Field Technical Study

The technical study has been put on hold due to a land survey being carried out. Once the results of this survey are known, the technical study can progress. It is unlikely to become a full LIP project due to the timescales involved.

Pilgrim Club Technical Study

An application for Technical Study was supported at Area Forum, this has never been approved due to problems identifying suitable premises. This application is now closed. If the organisation identifies suitable premises then a new application will need to be submitted.

Shildon People's Centre

Durham County Council has been approached regarding extending the lease on the premises. Once a decision is made on the possibility of an extension, the project will be taken to management team and cabinet.

Hackworth Park Pavilion Technical Study

The results of the technical study are due shortly, which should result in a full project application being received from Shildon Town Council before 31st July 2008.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum notes the content of the report and recognises the need that in some instances, further reports will need to be brought to the Area Forum as progress on particular projects develops.