

**Report of the Assistant Chief Executive**

**Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme**

**Application - Vintage Vehicle Shildon Museum**

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 £61,839 has been approved to date.

**Project Background**

- **Name of Project:** Vintage Vehicles Shildon Museum
- **Name of Applicant:** Vintage Vehicles Shildon
- **Brief Description of Project:**  
The project aims to improve access to and within the site and to enhance the visitor experience of the museum. The proposed works include provision of accessible entry to the exhibition area, refurbishment of existing toilet area providing baby changing and disabled toilet facility, refurbishment of the resource room, provision of internal interpretation material and reception area, along with provision of kitchen and catering facility.
- **Requested from LIP: £67,125 (54%)**
- **Total Estimated Project Cost: £111,184**
- **Impact of the Project:**  
The applicant has stated that the refurbishment of the museum would offer substantial visual and operational improvements to a former, ageing industrial unit, as well as increased volunteering and training opportunities for the local community, education value to local schools, heritage interest groups and regional special interest tourism. There is also expected to be a mutually beneficial 'heritage hub' effect with the neighbouring Locomotion site.

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

The applicant has stated that a questionnaire survey to twenty educational establishments all returned positive and encouraging responses. The local community will benefit from increased volunteering opportunities. Verbal consultation with existing visitors, volunteers, and partners has also proved to be positive.

In the application, the applicant has enclosed various letters of support from schools, Shildon Town Council, Locomotion, other historic vehicle societies.

**Value for money and Revenue implications:**

The total project cost is £111,184, of which the applicant has applied for £67,125 (54%). The applicant will apply for funding from other sources, such as Heritage Lottery Fund and The Northern Rock Foundation. It is unlikely that the project could be given full approval until the outcome of these applications are known to ensure that the full funding package to implement the project is in place. The future revenue costs will be funded by Shildon Vintage Vehicle Museum.

- **Statutory Approvals:**

Planning permission and Building regulation consent requirements will be explored during the appraisal process.

The applicant does not at present have a lease for the building or ownership of the collection although the Chairperson and the landlord/owner have signed a Permanence Agreement, stating that a lease agreement for a period of at least 15 years, for the building and collection, will be executed before funding is granted. The applicant has been advised that this would be a requisite of LIP and also other funding streams identified.

**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 further develop the LIP application, and clarify any additional points raised through the Area Forum process prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision making process.

**Material considerations:**

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.

**Other applications received from Area 4:**

**To be discussed at Area Forum July meeting:**

Eldon Community Partnership  
Jubilee Fields Community Centre

**Under development**

Shildon Peoples Centre  
Shildon Railway Sports & Social Club

**Projects endorsed by Area Forum and awaiting decision by SBC.**

None

**Projects Approved to date:**

Hackworth Tennis Courts	£34,999
Shildon Scouts Memorial Field Technical Study	£4,113
Hackworth Park Pavilion Technical Study	£15,000
Shildon Civic Hall Stage Sound and Lighting	£7,727
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	£61,839

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