

Item 5

AREA 4 FORUM

3rd March 2009

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Overview

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 3 Forum has been allocated £456,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. The Area Forum may recall that Area 4 was oversubscribed by £799,956 following the cut off date of 31st July 2008. Cabinet has now considered all project applications received from the Area 4 Forum locality and have allocated funding accordingly. Projects are summarised below.

The Current Position with approved Area 4 Forum Projects:

LIP Approvals

Hackworth Tennis Courts	Complete
Shildon Scout Field Technical Study	Complete
Hackworth Park Pavilion Technical Study	Complete
Civic Hall Lighting and Stage	Complete
Jubilee Fields Community Centre	Complete
Shildon Peoples Centre	Work ongoing
Eldon Community Centre	Planning application approved. Work started on site
Hackworth Park Play Area	All funding confirmed, work expected to start soon
Shildon Railway Sports field	Planning application submitted

Update

Since the last Area Forum meeting two projects have been approved by Cabinet.

Shildon Railway Sports Club: This project aims to provide new changing facility to fulfil modern needs for all players, the present dressing rooms are too small and cannot handle present requirements regarding male, female junior and disabled sports people. The applicant has stated that the facility will attract more young people to take part in the offered sports. Improved facilities at the club would encourage increased membership and use of the facility thereby giving a longer lifespan to the club.

Hackworth Park Play Area: This project aims to provide an extension of the range of opportunities for play by incorporating traditional fixed play, natural play and inclusive fitness equipment in an area that can be used by all ages. The applicant has stated that the targeted beneficiaries of the project are primarily the people of Shildon of all ages, however it is also anticipated that the unique opportunities created by this project will attract users from the surrounding areas.

Next Steps

Although the application process for LIP is closed, work will continue supporting the groups who have received grants to assist with the implementation of the project. This will also include monitoring of the intended outcomes to ensure that targets outlined in the application for the residents within the locality are met.

In addition to this, it is clear that due to the budget pressure and the amount of schemes submitted against the funding available, not all projects have been successful. Officers from the Strategy & Regeneration Division will continue to work with these projects to assist in trying to secure additional external grant monies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Area Forum participants for their involvement in shaping the LIP programme over the past 3 years. The comments made through the Area Forum process have been valuable in helping to challenge project ideas and ensure we get quality schemes that benefit the local community.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum notes the information provided on the current position of the Local Improvement Programme within Area 4.