

Item 8

REPORT TO CABINET

DATE 27th July 2006

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF STRATEGY & REGENERATION

Portfolio: Social Regeneration & Partnership

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – CHILTON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to, appraised and scored by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. Following endorsement of the project by the Area 2 Forum, this report provides information to Cabinet for their consideration and decision.
- 1.2 The Chilton Environmental Improvement Programme, is a package of projects aimed at improving the landscape, quality and number of facilities available for use by the local community. This project includes the redevelopment of the tennis courts including lighting, installation of a floodlit Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and two Youth Shelters, installation of 2 CCTV cameras, as well as a range of street furniture in Chilton Welfare Park.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet...

- 2.1 Approve the application for LIP Funds based upon the information provided.

3. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Background - Purpose and Process

- 3.1 The purpose of this programme is to improve community assets and support community engagement in the regeneration of local areas. As part of this, Local Communities, Area Forums and partner Town and Parish Councils can determine a proposed series of works against criteria agreed by Cabinet and make recommendations to Cabinet which schemes should be supported. As part of this process resources could be released to improve individual sites and buildings and improve the usability and access to buildings and community facilities.

- 3.2 The Strategy and Regeneration Section administer the programme and officers are in place to support the development of any applications. Once an application is received it is appraised and scored against a range of criteria and to ensure compatibility with the Department for Communities and Local Government definition of Regeneration as highlighted in the June 2005 report to Cabinet on the Local Improvement Programme.

Background – Application and Applicant

- 3.3 A copy of the report to the Area 2 Forum meeting, which was taken to the meeting on 20th June is attached, which highlights the background information to the project.
- 3.4 The project has been developed and championed by Chilton Town Council. The Town Council have chosen to engage Groundwork East Durham to assist in the delivery and project management of the scheme. Given Groundwork's charitable status they have also been able to contribute funding towards the proposal through the securing of additional resources from a national programme – Barclay's Spaces for Sport.

4. CORPORATE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Given the Sport and Recreation focus to the project, it is proposed that any recommendation of funding be conditional upon the applicant working with our Leisure Services Department to develop a robust Sports Development Plan to ensure that the completed facilities are fully utilised. This process has started and Chilton Town Council have engaged support from the Council's Leisure Services Department in drawing up the basis of a development plan for their target sports.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Area Forum 2 has been allocated £836,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009. £278,000 has been allocated for 2006/07. Of this, £64,400 has been allocated to the Number 66 project in West Cornforth leaving a balance of £214,300 for this financial year.
- 5.2 The applicant has requested **£93,454** of LIP funding, which is 43% of the total capital project costs. The remaining capital costs will be funded by:
- Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) - £12,500
 - Sedgefield Borough Council- £52,500 (*See para. 5.3*)
 - Groundwork East Durham - £50,000 Barclay's Spaces for Sport
 - National Lottery 'Awards for All' – £5,000
 - Police- £4,000 (To be confirmed)

Total Match funding £124,000

- 5.3 It should be noted that the Sedgefield Borough Council contribution is made up of £40,000 for Art and Gateway Features, and also £12,500 for the MUGA element of the project. Both elements fall within the Regeneration Mainstream Capital Programme Budget for 2006/07.
- 5.4 In addition to the above contribution to this project by Sedgefield Borough Council, a play area proposal is also being developed for an adjacent site within the Welfare Park. This element has £70,000 allocated to it from Sedgefield Borough Council's - Play Areas Improvement Programme. This project has been developed as a self-contained proposal and is not included within the estimated costs shown below.
- 5.5 The original LIP application submitted included £9,330 towards the provision of 2 CCTV cameras for the Welfare Park. Following discussion at Management Team and full details of type of coverage the cameras would provide being considered, it was suggested that the CCTV provision be removed from the project at this stage.
- 5.6 The project costs have therefore been amended. The breakdown of the revised expenditure from the LIP is as follows:

Programme Element	Total Cost	LIP Funding Required
Chilton Tennis Courts & Lighting	£95,762	£45,762
MUGA / MUGA Lighting and 2 Youth Shelters	£51,700	£17,700
Technical Design Study	£10,000	£10,000
Seats, Bins, Paths and Dog Bins – Street Furniture	£19,992	£19,992
Art and Gateway Feature	£40,000	£0
Total	£217,454	£93,454

- 5.7 It should be noted that the LIP would be funding a Technical Study for future design and master planning work within the Welfare Park. Following advice from the Accountancy Section, this study is viewed as eligible capital spend under the Department for Communities and Local Government Regeneration Definition, as it will be directly related to the future development of a capital asset.
- 5.8 Given no direct LIP funding requested, the Arts and Gateway Features elements could be removed from this project. The applicant has chosen to leave them in this proposal as they feel that they reflect an integral part of the project and are necessary to demonstrate the full breadth of the Improvement Programme. If removed for LIP purposes, this would mean that the actual total project cost would drop to £177,454 and the match

funding would be reduced to £84,000. Therefore the intervention rate would change and LIP monies would account for 53% of the total cost. In either event, given the applicant is a Town Council then they would still have secured more than a third of the project cost from their own sources thereby meeting the core aspirations for the LIP scheme.

- 5.9 Chilton Town Council will be responsible for any future management, maintenance and revenue implications arising out of the proposal. As part of the Barclays Spaces for Sport money, Groundwork East Durham intend to draw down an additional £20,000 of revenue monies to support future sports development as part of the Tennis Court and MUGA development.
- 5.10 Given that a key part of the application aims to provide appropriate floodlighting to the sports facilities, Chilton Town Council have committed to revisit the opening times of the Welfare Park in order to provide extended evening use during the winter months.

6. CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 This project has been highlighted as a priority within a range of Community Appraisals and Community Partnership documents over the past 3 years. These documents have consistently identified the need to provide appropriate community facilities for sport and leisure and lighting, particularly geared towards the needs of young people. Full details of the consultation which has taken place is included in the Area Forum report.

7. AREA FORUM RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The Area 2 Forum agreed to support the progress of this project and recommended that Cabinet support this application to the full amount requested.

8. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The application has undergone an appraisal and been scored against the Local Improvement Programmes criteria. The application has scored highly on all key elements of the LIP criteria, and demonstrated clear links to the Community Strategy priorities.
- 8.2 The applicant is still to receive planning permission for some elements of the scheme. An application has been made to the Borough Council and no funding will be released until all statutory permissions are in place.
- 8.3 Procurement
The funding requested represents a grant to an external organisation. The grant is conditional upon applicants identifying a full quotation / and or tender process for the works.

8.4 Crime and Disorder

In line with the Council's Community Strategy, this project has identified a clear link with providing activities and facilities that hope to result in a fall in crime and anti-social behaviour rates within this communities.

8.5 Risk Management

The contract will be managed by Groundwork East Durham as part of their project support arrangements with the Town Council. Therefore all project implementation risks will be managed and mitigated by Groundwork East Durham and Chilton Town Council.

9. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There has been no previous consultation or engagement with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

10. **LIST OF APPENDICES**

- 1 Area 2 Forum Report – June 2006 – Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme Application

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Ward: Chilton
Key Decision Validation: None - Funding requested through LIP is under £100,000.

Background Papers:

Internal

- 1 Promotion Of The Regeneration Of The Borough Housing Land Capital Receipts To Support Regeneration And Affordable Housing Provision June 2005

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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