

Item 9

REPORT TO CABINET

27th July 2006

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF STRATEGY & REGENERATION

Portfolio: Social Regeneration & Partnership

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – TRIMDON COLLIERY COMMUNITY CENTRE ARCHITECTS FEES

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 3 Forum, this report provides information to Cabinet for their consideration and decision.
- 1.2. The full capital project has been split into two phases. The aim of the overall project is to provide a new community centre suitable to the needs and aspirations of the local community. This first phase of the project aims to commission an architect to provide a robust design and costing that will enable the project to move forward to a planning permission stage and ultimately to a full application to the other capital funders such as the Big Lottery Fund. This work will build on the feasibility study that has already taken place. The Community Association have estimated that the final build costs would range between £500,000 - £650,000. This phase will refine that initial estimate into an accurate proposal.

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 3 Forum meeting, which was taken to the meeting on 5th July is attached, which highlights the background information to the project.
- 3.4 Trimdon Colliery Community Association is a community association set up in the interest of the social welfare for recreation and leisure to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of the surrounding area.

4. CORPORATE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no other significant material considerations.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Area Forum 3 has been allocated £532,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009. £177,334 has been allocated for 2006/07. None of which has been allocated to date.
- 5.2 The applicant has requested £12,774.38 of LIP funding, which is 81% of the total capital project costs. The Community Project Development Fund (Durham County Council) will fund the remaining capital costs of £3000, although this is yet to be confirmed.
- 5.3 It is clear that the LIP would be funding technical / design works. Following advice from the Accountancy Section, this work is viewed as eligible under the Department for Communities and Local Government Regeneration Definition, as it will be directly related to the future development of a capital asset.
- 5.4 In addition to the above, a play area proposal is also being developed for an adjacent site at the Community Centre. This element has £70,000 allocated to it from Sedgfield 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.

6. CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 A full feasibility study has been undertaken which shows the demand and need for a centre to be constructed in Trimdon Colliery. The consultation with the community included a household survey, planning for real event, study visits, youth survey, survey of local facilities, interview with nearby community facility, partnership support survey with all local community and social providers including community centres in surrounding environs. The consultation report provides a full brief of the requirements of the community including the purpose and rough dimensions of rooms. This has been used as a basis for a brief for the commissioning of an architect.

7. AREA FORUM RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The Area 3 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 No planning permission is required for this first phase of the project. This phase will however enable plans to be drawn up for the second phase and enable a planning application to be submitted.
- 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.

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 3 Forum Report – July 2006 – Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme Application

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Ward: **New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange**

Key Decision Validation: Not applicable

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"/>