

CABINET

Thursday,
1 February 2007
10.00 a.m.

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

AGENDA and REPORTS

If you would like this document in another language or format, such as audio tape, Braille or large print, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us

إذا أردت هذه الوثيقة بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، أو إذا كنت بحاجة إلى خدمات مترجم، فنرجو أن تقوم بالاتصال بنا.

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান অথবা যদি আপনার একজন ইন্টারপ্রেটারের প্রয়োজন হয়, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

本文件可以翻譯為另一語文版本，或製作成另一格式，如有此需要，或需要傳譯員的協助，請與我們聯絡。

यह दस्तावेज़ यदि आपको किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये, या आपको आनुवाद-सेवाओं की आवश्यकता हो तो हमसे संपर्क करें

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਸਮਝਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰੈਟਰ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

یہ دستاویز اگر آپ کو کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہو، یا اگر آپ کو ترجمان کی خدمات چاہئیں تو براہ مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کیجئے۔

Póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea obtener este documento en otro idioma o formato, o si necesita los servicios de un intérprete.

Democratic Services



01388 816166

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To notify the Chairman of any items that appear in the agenda in which you may have an interest.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2007. (Pages 1 - 6)

KEY DECISION

LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

4. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 (KEY DECISION)

Report of Director of Leisure Services. (Pages 7 - 10)

OTHER DECISIONS

SOCIAL REGENERATION AND PARTNERSHIP PORTFOLIO

5. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - FAMILY/ COMMUNITY SUPPORT AREA - TUDHOE GRANGE SCHOOL

Report of Head of Strategy and Regeneration. (Pages 11 - 16)

6. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - HACKWORTH PARK TENNIS COURTS REDEVELOPMENT

Report of Head of Strategy and Regeneration. (Pages 17 - 22)

7. PROPOSED CREATION OF FOOD AND HEALTH CO-ORDINATION POST (FIXED TERM UPTO 31.3. 08)

Report of Head of Strategy and Regeneration. (Pages 23 - 32)

MINUTES

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2007. (Pages 33 - 38)

9. AREA FORUMS

To consider the minutes of the following:

- (a) Area 2 Forum - 9th January 2007 (Pages 39 - 42)
- (b) Area 3 Forum - 10th January 2007 (Pages 43 - 46)
- (c) Area 4 Forum - 16th January 2007 (Pages 47 - 50)

EXEMPT INFORMATION

The following item is not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. As such it is envisaged that an appropriate resolution will be passed at the meeting to exclude the press and public.

KEY DECISION

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP/ LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT PORTFOLIOS

10. NETPARK: PROPOSED LAND DISPOSAL AND FUTURE INVESTMENT (KEY DECISION)

Joint report of Chief Executive and Director of Resources. (Pages 51 - 58)

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lead Members are requested to inform the Chief Executive or the Head of Democratic Services of any items they might wish to raise under this heading by no later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting. This will enable the Officers in consultation with the Chairman to determine whether consideration of the matter by the Cabinet is appropriate.

B. Allen
Chief Executive

Council Offices
SPENNYMOOR
24th January 2007

Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson, M. Iveson, D.A. Newell, K. Noble, R.A. Patchett and W. Waters

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection in relation to this Agenda and associated papers should contact Gillian Garrigan, on Spennymoor 816166 Ext 4240

Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CABINET

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Thursday,
11 January 2007

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson, K. Noble,
R.A. Patchett and W. Waters

In Attendance: Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. B.A. Clare, V. Crosby,
Mrs. A.M. Fleming, A. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Hall, D.M. Hancock,
J.G. Huntington, J.M. Khan, B. Meek, J.P. Moran, G. Morgan,
Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. I. Jackson Smith, T. Ward and J. Wayman J.P

Apologies: Councillors M. Iveson and D.A. Newell

CAB.130/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Councillors R. Patchett and K. Noble would each be declaring a prejudicial interest in relation to a report regarding attendance at conferences, which was to be considered under Item 11 – Any Other Business.

CAB.131/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.132/06 BUDGET FRAMEWORK FOR 2007/2008 (KEY DECISION)

Consideration was given to a report setting out a budget framework for 2007/08 after taking into account the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and the Government's proposed settlements in relation to Revenue Support Grant (RSG), Housing Subsidy and Capital Allocations. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Council had been provisionally notified that it would receive £9,601,288 of external Government support for 2007/08. The grant settlement, which was broadly in line with expectations, showed a year on year increase of 5.1% or £468,000 including the base adjustments in accordance with the distribution framework.

It was pointed out that no indicative grant figures had been provided for 2008 – 2009. During the coming summer the Government would be announcing the results of its Comprehensive Spending review for the three year period 2008/09 to 2010/11, which was expected to be particularly difficult period for Local Government, with much tougher efficiency targets being imposed.

The budget framework for 2007/08 reflected the Council's key priorities set out in the Corporate Plan and took account of financial issues and pressures, including the significant increase in the pay costs to be incurred by the Council and fuel price inflation. Paragraphs 3.11 to 3.42 of the report outlined the proposed key changes.

It was reported that there would be little scope for further additional growth in spending in later years. Furthermore, all areas of Council spending were expected to continue to contribute to the achievement of efficiency savings. Over the next two years efficiency savings in the order of £750,000 must be achieved to maintain spending levels and keep council tax increase low, as the use of the budget support fund was withdrawn.

Specific reference was made to the target budgets for 2007/08 set out in paragraph 3.45 of the report.

It was explained that careful planning of the budget meant that the commitment made in the Medium Term Financial Plan to restrict council tax increases to 2.9% could be delivered in 2007/08. The substantial additional investment in Council services would add £5.24 per year or 10p per week to the Band D Council Tax. The cost to the Band A taxpayer would be £3.50 per year or 7p per week.

It was reported that the 2007/08 Housing Subsidy settlement had left the Council's Housing Revenue Account significantly worse off. Although the Council's spending allowances for Management and Maintenance had increased in excess of inflation by 3.97% and 4.34% respectively, an increase in Guideline Rent Levels of 7.26% had meant that the net subsidy payable to the Government for redistribution to other local housing authorities had increased by £982,700 to £3.7m.

It was pointed out that the continued implementation of the Government's Rent Restructuring methodology would lead to substantial rent increases for most of the Council's tenants over the next few years to enable full convergence with Housing Association rents to be achieved by 2012. Only 173 tenancies were expected to be at target once the rent changes had been applied in 2007/08. Members' attention was drawn to paragraphs 4.9 to 4.14 of the report, which set out the impact of the changes for 2007/08.

Specific reference was made to the heating charges for tenants in grouped accommodation, which had been increased in April 2006 for the first time in 9 years. It was proposed that the Council would continue to make a staged increase in the charges over the next few years to fully recover the energy costs incurred.

It was pointed out that in the light of the level of resources available to the Council, it would be possible in 2007/08 to launch the biggest Capital Spending Programme ever proposed by the Council since its inception in 1974, amounting to a minimum of £20m, which would increase further as schemes attracted external grant funding. Individual service targets for each portfolio were set out in the table detailed in paragraph 5.3.

It was reported that the Council's three Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be fully consulted on the budget proposals in accordance with the published timetable. In addition, a series of Council Tax Focus Groups consisting of a representative example of interested Council Tax payers would be held during January. Similarly the Tenants Housing Services Group and Residents Federation were being consulted on all aspects relating to the Housing Revenue Account.

RESOLVED : That the Budget Framework for 2007/08 be approved and be consulted upon in accordance with the timetable previously approved by Cabinet on 14th December 2006.

CAB.133/06 IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO POWERS TO TACKLE ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Lead Member for Housing presented a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that new powers were available to tackle anti-social behaviour under the provisions of the Housing Act 2004 and the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

The powers focused on both secure and introductory tenants and included:

- The power to demote a secure tenancy
- The power to extend an introductory tenancy by a further six months
- The power to remove the Right to Buy
- The power to apply for an Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction

RESOLVED :

1. *That the Director of Housing be given delegated powers to seek an Order to suspend the Right to Buy in appropriate cases.*
2. *That the Housing Department's Statement of Policies and Procedure on Anti-Social Behaviour be updated to reflect the changes set out in the report.*
3. *That a separate report on the implications and implementation of the Respect Standard for Housing Management be presented to Cabinet in March 2007.*

CAB.134/06 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (LIP) UPDATE ON THE LIP AND CREATION OF A PROJECT DEVELOPMENT DELEGATED APPROVAL MECHANISM

The Lead Member for Social Regeneration and Partnership presented a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report highlighted a series of issues regarding the Local Improvement Programme that had become apparent over the first six months of its operation and sought approval for the establishment of a delegated

approval mechanism for first phase technical works associated with LIP projects.

RESOLVED : That the contents of the report be noted and the establishment of a delegated approval mechanism for the first phase of technical works associated with LIP projects be approved.

CAB.135/06 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ROLE OF TWO SENIOR DEVELOPMENT CONTROL OFFICER POSTS

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval to change the post specification for two Senior Development Control Officer posts in the Planning and Development Section of Neighbourhood Services Department. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were informed that since the report had been prepared, discussions had taken place with officers in Human Resources Section regarding the job title and it was proposed that the title should be changed to Principal Development Control Officer.

RESOLVED :

- 1. That the changes to the post specification as outlined in Appendix 1 be approved.*
- 2. That both posts be regarded from PO1 to PO2 to reflect the additional levels of responsibility set out in the amended post specification.*
- 3. That the job title be changed to Principal Development Control Officer.*

CAB.136/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT - REVIEW OF SICKNESS MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to a schedule detailing Cabinet's response and action plan to the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Review Group regarding sickness management. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : *That the schedule be agreed.*

CAB.137/06 AREA FORUMS

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following meetings:

Area 5 Forum	-	28 th November 2006
Area 1 Forum	-	11 th December 2006

(For copies see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : *That the reports be received.*

CAB.138/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following meetings:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 - 28th November 2006
Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 - 12th December 2006

(For copies see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the Committees' recommendations be noted and appropriate action be taken.

CAB.139/06 CONFERENCES

NB. In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members' Code of Practice of Conduct, Councillors K. Noble and R.A. Patchett declared a prejudicial interest in the above item and left the meeting.

Consideration was given to a report (for copy see file of Minutes) regarding the Council's representation at the following:

- Association for Public Service Excellence Employment Issues and Legislation Master Class – Cambridge - 18th January 2007.
- Creating Better and Stronger Local Strategic Partnerships – London – 31st January 2007

RESOLVED :

1. *That the Cabinet Member for Learning and Employment represents the Council at the Employment Issues and Legislation Master Class.*
2. *That the Cabinet Member for Social Regeneration and Partnership represents the Council at the Creating Better and Stronger LSPs conference.*

Published on 12th January 2007

Any key decisions contained in these Minutes will be implemented on Monday 22nd January 2007 five working days after the date of publication unless they are called in by three Members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call in procedure rules.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection etc. in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Gillian Garrigan on Spennymoor Ext 42440.

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 4

KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET

1 FEBRUARY 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

Portfolio: Leisure & Culture

Capital Programme 2007/2008

1 SUMMARY

Although the Capital allocation to the Leisure and Culture Portfolio is still subject to final approval by Cabinet, contained within the spending plans is the introduction of variable speed drives to leisure centre plant and machinery which will reduce energy consumption significantly.

As parts of the 2007/08 revenue budget exercise, ambitious savings on energy (circa £80,000 p.a.) have been factored into the accounts.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the procurement process to source and install variable speed drives begins immediately.
- 2.2 That Cabinet receive a report as soon as possible outlining the Capital Programme spending plans for the portfolio in the 2007/08 financial year.

3 DETAIL

The Borough Council has over the past 3-4 years received various energy management reports all of which confirm the need to manage and control energy consumption by means of plant adaptations.

Extensive analysis has been undertaken within leisure centres into what is achievable using Council resources and what may be possible by a partnering approach.

Cabinet can expect to receive a report shortly on procuring an energy management partner to cover Council facilities in general, however, in order to start making inroads into achieving the Council's 10% annual energy reduction target, the installation of variable speed drives to plant and machinery will assist.

In essence the installation of this kit will make the plant run more efficiently by altering the demand for energy depending upon the time of day. Overnight for example essential plant will operate at a slower speed thereby calling for less energy, leading to cost savings.

4 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is anticipated that the installation costs of 38 variable speed drives is in the region of £129,000. This project has been assessed to achieve a reduction in energy consumption of specific plant by up to 49%.

Cabinet will shortly be receiving a comprehensive capital spending report for the entire portfolio, but by agreeing this project in advance, full year cost savings are more likely to be made.

5 LINKS TO CORPORATE AMBITIONS

Reducing energy consumption and CO² emissions is part of the Council's leadership role within the community and links as a cross cutting target throughout all its corporate ambitions.

The Corporate strategy for energy management covering other Council buildings will be the subject of a further report to Cabinet in the near future.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Risk Management

Failure to install the variable speed drives quickly will limit the opportunity to achieve full year cost savings already factored into the 2007/08 revenue account.

6.2 Sustainability

The Council has established an annual energy consumption reduction target of 10% in an effort not only to reduce cost, but to take account of the wider implications for society of CO² emissions and their effect on climate change.

6.3 Equality and Diversity

N/A

6.4 Crime and Disorder

N/A

6.5 Human Rights and Social Inclusion

N/A

6.6 Health and Safety

All health and safety issues relating to the procurement, installation and operation of the project management process will be strictly adhered to.

Contact Officer: Phil Ball
Telephone No: (01388) 816166 ext 4386
Email Address: pball@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward(s): All

Key Decision Validation: Expenditure over £100,000

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"/>

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 5

REPORT TO CABINET

1st FEBRUARY 2007

REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGY & REGENERATION

Portfolio: Social Regeneration & Partnership

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – Family/Community Support Area – Tudhoe Grange School

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. Following endorsement of the project by the Area 1 Forum, this report provides information to Cabinet for their consideration.
- 1.2 The project involves the complete refurbishment of an area of Tudhoe Grange School at the lower school site, Durham Road to provide a venue specifically designed for community and family use in order to access appropriate services confidentially within their own community. A range of services have been identified to offer support to young people and their families.
- 1.3 The project meets the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) eligible 'Regeneration' Definition. ✓
- 1.4 The project has also demonstrated links to the key LIP criteria of meeting elements of the Community Strategy and community consultation. ✓
- 1.5 The applicant has requested **£15,227** of LIP funding, which is 53% of the total capital project costs of £28,476.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet...

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

3. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

- 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 can propose projects against set criteria

agreed by Cabinet. Through this programme resources will be released to improve sites and improve the usability of community facilities and buildings across the Borough.

Background – Application and Applicant

- 3.2 This project has been developed by Tudhoe Grange School, and will be located at the Lower School, Durham Road site.
- 3.3 As part of the extended school and every child matters agenda, the secondary school are focused at providing a range of extended services within the community working with their cluster schools and the community / voluntary sector.
- 3.4 The project aims to provide children and families with a venue specifically designed for their use where they can access appropriate services confidentially within their own community.
- 3.5 This includes supporting children who experience barriers to learning often associated with their home life, local community or environment. The project will focus on providing dedicated accommodation to a series of user groups and agencies that can provide support to young people and their families with the aim of enhancing the life experiences of young people in relation to education, social issues and health. The project will also provide opportunities to offer support to parents and guardian's to deal with issues that affect young people.
- 3.6 The school have outlined an intended programme of use and have identified the following key user groups; Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Education Welfare Support including a parental focus, Anti-Bullying Support, Youth Engagement Service to provide a base to deliver support to young people at risk of offending due to family breakdown and relationship problems, use by the Survivors of Domestic Abuse (SODA) to support children affected by domestic abuse, NHS Trust use for Sexual Health services in line with the governments Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. In addition to the above agency focused uses, opportunities exist for use by local community and youth focused groups on a more casual basis.
- 3.7 A series of letters of support have been attached with the LIP application. In all cases both agencies and individual groups have highlighted a lack of available space within the surrounding area to carry out such activities. A key issue that has been highlighted through the consultation process is the need for a non-threatening environment that allows confidentiality to be maintained. By locating the facility at the school, the school feel that they can support a wide range of young people and their families through a locally accessible facility.

- 3.8 The proposal put forward involves the complete refurbishment of an unused area at the front of the school that will be split into two main areas with an independent entrance to the main school. One area will incorporate a small office area and meeting space for smaller groups. The other, larger space will provide a meeting area for larger groups accompanied by a small kitchen area for the production of refreshments. Access to video / ICT facilities will also be provided.
- 3.9 The school have outlined that the facility will be available for use between 8.30am – 9.00pm on weekdays and by prior request on Saturdays.

4. CORPORATE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Officers from the Strategy & Regeneration Division are working with the School to develop links to the Children's Centre located at Tudhoe Moor Nursery School to ensure that a complimentary approach is adopted for this new facility.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Area Forum 1 has been allocated £836,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009. £278,700 has been allocated for 2006/07. None of which has been allocated to date, although a series of projects are in the later stages of development.
- 5.2 The applicant has requested **£15,227** of LIP funding, which is 53% of the total capital project costs of £28,476 for the refurbishment work. The remaining capital costs will be funded by the school's own capital funds.
- 5.3 The school will manage and maintain the area as part of their annual capital budget. A subsidised charge will be made to agencies using the facilities to cover the core costs of heating lighting and caretaking expenses.

6. CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Young People's - School Council have been involved in the consultation exercise and have identified a series of issues that young people at the school face. The Spennymoor Youth Action Group has also been consulted on the project as an intended user of the facility. Letters of support have been received from County Durham Youth Engagement Services, SODA (Survivors of Domestic Abuse), Sedgefield Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Darlington and Durham County Racial Equality Council and the Family Support Worker for the school.

7. AREA FORUM RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 A very positive response was received to the proposed project by the Area 1 Forum at it's meeting held on 11th December 2006. The Area Forum agreed to support the progress of this project to the full amount requested.

8. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The application has undergone an appraisal against the Local Improvement Programme criteria. The application has met the key elements of the LIP criteria, and demonstrated links to the Community Strategy priorities.
- 8.2 Planning Permission and Building Regulation consent has been approved.
- 8.3 Procurement - The funding requested represents a grant to an external organisation. The works have been tendered as part of a larger contract for the school, which was managed by Durham County Council.
- 8.4 Crime and Disorder - In line with the Council's Community Strategy, this project has identified a link with providing activities and support services that hope to result in a fall in crime and anti-social behaviour rates within this community.
- 8.5 An important issue to note is the possible implication of the Governments Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Initiative on the school site. Durham County Council are currently embarking on a 4 Phase – BSF Initiative across the County. Discussions have been held with Durham County Council as part of the LIP assessment process to establish an agreed position on this issue.
- 8.5 Tudhoe Grange School falls into the second Phase of planned investment with the school scheduled for redevelopment in approximately 6 -7 years time. Subject to Government funding being secured, the aim of the BSF initiative is to rebuild or remodel secondary schools to provide a modern learning environment for both pupils and the wider community. Therefore any investment directed to the school from the Borough Council via the LIP needs to be protected to ensure that if the school site is redeveloped as part of the BSF Initiative, the investment made is either kept on site, or preferably modernised in line with the rest of the school to enhance the level of opportunities for the community. This issue will be reflected in any offer of grant that is made following Cabinet consideration.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There has been no previous consultation or engagement with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees regarding this particular project.

Contact Officer: Andrew Megginson
Telephone number: (01388) 824069
Email Address: amegginson@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward: Low Spennymoor and Tudhoe 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"/>

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 6

ITEM No.

REPORT TO CABINET

DATE 1st February 2007

REPORT OF HEAD OF
STRATEGY & REGENERATION

Portfolio: Social Regeneration & Partnership

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – HACKWORTH PARK TENNIS COURTS REDEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Division. Following endorsement of the project by the Area 4 Forum, this report provides information to Cabinet for their consideration.
- 1.2 This project aims to redevelop the existing Tennis Courts and improve access into the Tennis Courts at Hackworth Park, Shildon.
- 1.3 The project meets the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) eligible 'Regeneration' Definition. ✓
- 1.4 The project has also demonstrated linkages to the key LIP criteria of meeting elements of the Community Strategy and local consultation. ✓
- 1.5 The applicant has requested **£34,999** of LIP funding, which is 41% of the total capital project costs - £84,999.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet...

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

3. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

- 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 can propose projects against criteria agreed by Cabinet. Through this programme resources will be released to improve

sites and improve the usability of community facilities and buildings across the Borough.

Background – Application and Applicant

- 3.2 The project has been developed by Shildon Town Council. The project aims to redevelop and improve access to the existing Tennis Courts within Hackworth Park, Shildon.
- 3.3 The project has been put forward as a result of the poor condition of the current Tennis Courts which are under used. The proposal will involve the resurfacing of the Courts to an approved Lawn Tennis Association standard, together with additional works to ensure the Tennis Courts are more accessible to the local community.
- 3.4 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 of the project, the Town Council and Groundwork East Durham are working with the Sports Development Officer in Leisure Services to implement a detailed Sports Development Plan to provide a series of enhanced coaching and development opportunities.

The Sports Development Plan will focus on the following key aspects.

- Use by the School Sports Co-ordinator with targeted development within both the primary and secondary schools across Shildon.
- Detailed coaching and development opportunities.
- Support to increase the amount of sports volunteers within the community sector.
- Links into the proposed Shildon Sports Forum, including exit routes into other forms of physical activity locally.
- To re-establish a Tennis Club at the park to ensure the long term future sustainability of the facility.

- 4.2 Until 3 years ago, the courts at the Park were home to a Tennis Club. The Tennis Club has ceased playing due to the deteriorating condition of the courts. A long-term aim of the project is to re-establish the club at this site.
- 4.3 Detailed consultation has also been undertaken with the Lawn Tennis Association who have identified the facility for future development use and coaching opportunities. A coaching programme has already been confirmed for the summer of 2007 subject to funding being confirmed.
- 4.4 As part of the Barclays Spaces for Sport Programme, Groundwork East Durham can draw down an additional £20,000 of revenue monies over the next 3 years to provide financial support to the future delivery of the Sports Development Plan. This funding includes a £2,000 capital allocation for equipment. The Sport Development Plan is required in order to draw down this funding.
- 4.5 Subject to funding being confirmed, the implementation of the Sports Development Plan will be completed between Shildon Town Council, Groundwork East Durham and Sedgefield Borough Council over the coming months in order to offer a range of opportunities when the project is planned for completion in June 2007.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Area 4 Forum has been allocated £456,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009. £152,000 has been allocated for 2006/07, none of which has been allocated to date.
- 5.2 The applicant has requested **£34,999** of LIP funding, which is 41% of the total capital project costs. The remaining capital costs will be funded by:
- £50,000 Barclays Spaces for Sport Programme
- 5.3 The project cost breakdown of the proposed expenditure is as follows:

Programme Element	Total Cost
Tennis Courts works Porous macadam surface	£ 60,005
Building survey of pavilion	£ 650
Engineering survey of the courts	£ 750
Tree works cutting / lopping	£ 1,050
Steps to court	£ 1,300
Seating platform	£ 4,300
Pedestrian access improvements	£ 8,800
Fees	£ 8,144

Total	£ 84,999
--------------	-----------------

- 5.4 Shildon Town Council will be responsible for any future management, maintenance and revenue implications arising out of the proposal. The Town Council have submitted a costed maintenance schedule for the first 12 years of operation of the courts. It is proposed that a sinking fund be established by the Town Council to ensure that the courts are renovated in line with this schedule after 10 years of operation.
- 5.5 Shildon Town Council have outlined a suitable pricing policy linked to the fulfillment of the key aims of the Sports Development Plan.
- 5.6 The Town Council has stated that the current opening times will be reviewed once the project is complete. It is felt that a formal extension of the opening times be included as a condition of grant in order to maximize the impact of the project, subject to a positive funding decision by Cabinet. No floodlighting provision has been included in the project.

6. CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The applicant has stated that community consultation on this project originally carried out in 1999 highlighted the need for improved play and sports facilities within the park. A play area and skate park has since been installed. In addition to this, a series of local consultation events have also taken place more recently during the development of the Barclays Spaces for Sports funding application. Letters of support have also been received from local schools within Shildon who would wish to utilise the facility.

7. AREA FORUM RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The Area 4 Forum agreed to support the progress of this project to the full amount requested.

8. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The application has undergone an appraisal against the Local Improvement Programmes criteria. The application has met key elements of the LIP criteria, and demonstrated links to the Community Strategy priorities.
- 8.2 The applicant is still to receive planning permission for some elements of the scheme. 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 the applicant identifying a full

quotation / and or tender process for the works. The tender process for this project will be managed by Groundwork East Durham on behalf of the Town Council.

- 8.4 Crime and Disorder - In line with the Council's Community Strategy, this project has identified a link with providing activities and facilities that hope to result in a fall in crime and anti-social behaviour rates within this community. The facility will need to be actively managed by the Town Council and it's partners to ensure that opportunities for antisocial behaviour are minimised. This will include the designs being considered by the Police Design Liaison Officer prior to implementation in consultation with Groundwork East Durham.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

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

Contact Officer: Andrew Megginson
Telephone number: (01388) 824069
Email Address: amegginson@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward: Shildon wards

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"/>

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 7

REPORT TO CABINET

2 FEBRUARY 2007

REPORT OF HEAD OF
STRATEGY & REGENERATION

Portfolio: Social Regeneration and Partnership

Proposed Creation of Food And Health Co-ordination Post (fixed term upto 31/3/08)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes the creation of a fixed term project based post, which is to be fully funded from available external grant. The post will concentrate on partnership and project based activity which will progress the twin agendas of Community Health Promotion and also link strongly with the Community Enterprise aspect of the Authority's and the Local Strategic Partnership's Prosperous ambitions.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the creation of a fixed term project post to deliver the Food and Health Agenda.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Through the joint working arrangements of the Sedgefield Borough Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), an opportunity has been identified with the County Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) to bring forward an element of work which sits within a suite of healthy lifestyle initiatives and contributes strongly to the Council's aspirations for a Healthy Borough, but also has significant linkages, both with the Community Economic Development focus emerging through the Prosperous agenda and the Councils work as part of the Local Economic Growth Initiative programme.
- 3.2 The post identified would support the work of the LSP's Healthy Borough thematic group in developing and implementing the Food and Health agenda which broadly consists of the following elements.
- Obesity & Weight Management (Children and Adults)
 - Sustainable Developments
 - Publicity and Best Practice
 - Training, Education, Evaluation and Research
- 3.3 Targets
The principle focus of this post is to develop and commence the implementation of the Food & Health Action Plan, which sits below the LSP's Healthy Borough Strategic Framework and Action Plan. This is one of three core documents produced through the LSP to assist in driving forward the health conditions of the Borough's residents.
- 3.4 Management Arrangements / Staffing issues
The role identified is one, which provides strong links to the current workstreams of the Strategy and Regeneration Division and also the Health Improvement work of the

PCT. Due to the ongoing reconfiguration of the PCT and its implications for bringing forward new staffing posts, it is proposed that the Pioneering Care Partnership- already recognised by the PCT as being the local strategic lead for this element of work, host the Food and Health Co-ordinators post, undertaking line management arrangements and reviewing progress and workplan targets via quarterly tri partite meetings with the Borough Council and PCT.

- 3.5 This structure has been utilised for previous partnership based activity and can be seen to be effective provided clear accountability and reporting is defined from the outset. For this post, accountability will be via an established Food and Health Steering Group formed under the Healthy Borough Theme of the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 3.6 This opportunity has arisen from a review of external funding to service improvement activity across the LSP, which has identified some available resource, which under the performance management arrangements is matched against the identified strategic requirements.

4 PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The proposed post has been developed through detailed consultations with the Primary Care Trust, who under normal circumstances would have looked to create a new fixed term post to take forward this piece of work. Following the reconfiguration of the County Durham PCT arrangements however, there are restrictions placed upon the creation of new posts and the recruitment to opportunities
- 4.2 Across the Borough, the Pioneering Care Partnership based at Newton Aycliffe have undertaken the strategic lead role in food and health matters on behalf of the PCT as part of the Local Strategic Partnership's operations. Given the time input by PCP staff it appears logical that any new opportunity is created within a PCP setting.
- 4.3 Given the Performance management arrangements within which the LSP now operates, the creation of a food and health project required strong links to the overarching strategies and targets being pursued. The outline work programme for the post / project is detailed in appendix one although this will be developed further by the Steering Group.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Human Resources Implications
The proposals detailed in this report involve the creation of one additional fixed term post for the duration of the available external funding (upto end March 2008) This post (detailed in appendix 1) has been job evaluated at scale SO2.
- 5.2 Finance Implications
The cost of the creation of this post for the period 1/2/07-31/3/08 is £41,560., relating to direct staffing and on-costs. The overall proposal, developed jointly with the PCT and PCP identifies total project costs of £61,580 upto March 2008. This figure includes funding for project activity support and will be met from external funding (Neighbourhood Renewal Fund). A breakdown of anticipated costs is outlined in Appendix 2.
- 5.3 Financial and Human resource implications beyond the 31 March 2008 will need to be considered as part of the consideration of service sustainability.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Links to Corporate Objectives

The post as detailed will provide a focus for activity under the Healthy Borough Corporate Objective and it is anticipated that an element of the work will also contribute towards the Prosperous Borough Objective in so far as there will be a focus on community enterprise linked to food distribution

6.2 Risk Management

The Council's role in delivering Health Improvement in the manner identified requires effective partnership working. Arrangements to minimise risk associated with this have been put in place through the development of the project team (PCT, PCP and Borough Council) and the identification of appropriate project milestones

The arrangements detailed in this report seek to manage risks associated with not maximising the take up of available resources, whilst also progressing key elements of the Health agenda being pursued through the Local Strategic Partnership's activities.

6.3 Health and Safety Implications

No additional implications have been identified

6.4 Legal and Constitutional

No additional implications have been identified

6.5 Information Communication Technology

No additional implications have been identified

6.6 Equality and Diversity

No additional implications have been identified

6.7 Sustainability

As a service improvement funded through Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, there will be a focus on securing mainstream resources to continue the Food and Health Agenda following the end of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. This process has been successfully applied in previous rounds of NRF funding and has led to the mainstreaming of a number of project based posts

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Activity developed and implemented through the creation of this post will be considered by both the Healthy Borough Strategic Working Group and the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

8 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Job specifications, job descriptions and skills matrices. A detailed skills matrix will be formulated following employment taking into consideration qualifications and experience.

Appendix 2 Anticipated costs breakdown

Contact Officers: Graham Wood
Telephone No: 01388 816166 ext 4205
Email Address: gwood@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward(s): n/a

Key Decision Validation: Not a key decision

Background Papers

Sedgefield Borough Local Strategic Partnership Healthy Lifestyles Strategic Framework and Action Plans

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"/>

**SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
JOB DESCRIPTION**

POST TITLE:	Food & Health Coordinator		
DEPARTMENT:		GRADE:	SO2
CAR USER STATUS:	Casual	LOCATION:	
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Regeneration Manager & Learning for Health Manager (PCP)		
RESPONSIBLE FOR:	-		

KEY ROLE (JOB PURPOSE)

The postholder will be responsible for the development, co-ordination and implementation of initiatives to progress Food and Health linked schemes in line with the agreed Food & Health Strategic Action Plan.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Support the ongoing evaluation and further implementation of the strategic frameworks and action plans for food and health by;
 - Assisting in the identification of actions that are not on target and help to develop strategies to ensure actions and milestones are achieved.
 - Working to ensure the actions identified food and health action plan become embedded in mainstream services
 - Ensuring the activities within the action plans focus on inequalities in relation to geographic areas as well as target groups
 - Working with the Project Coordinator for Employability and Health to ensure that the food and health strategic framework and action plans include actions to address employability
 - Acting as the operational lead for food & health within Sedgefield and reforming the operational multi-agency group
2. Undertake, analyse and build upon a comprehensive Food Access Mapping exercise across the Borough
3. Use examples of evidence based practice to develop local food and health projects. This includes accessing external funding programmes and being responsible for the submission of any relevant quarterly funding claims and reports.
4. Strengthen effective partnerships with Statutory, Voluntary and Community partners in order to achieve the actions outlined within the action plans

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT
PERSON SPECIFICATION POST: FOOD AND HEALTH COORDINATOR-

REQUIREMENTS	IMPORTANCE	ASSESSMENT
<p>QUALIFICATIONS:</p> <p>Degree or equivalent in Public Health / Health Promotion/ Nursing / Sustainable Development/Community Development,</p> <p>Be able to demonstrate evidence of study at a post graduate level preferably in a Health Promotion / Public Health / Health and Social care related field</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A/C</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C</p>

SKILLS		
Comprehend complex issues and develop and deliver practical solutions.	E	A/R
Good interpersonal and communication skills and able to act in a persuasive, diplomatic and tactful manner and to be able to form positive relationships with others.	E	A/R
Command the respect of senior service managers and to be able to create and maintain effective working relationships with them.	E	A/I
Ability to initiate, lead and direct projects and to network proactively.	E	A/I/
Communicate effectively both in written and verbal terms and be able to produce reports in a clear concise and professional manner and present information on complex issues to different audiences.	E	A/
To plan and formulate own work activity with minimal direction and achieve specified targets standards.	E	A/I
Ability to work to timescales in an environment of conflicting priorities whilst maintaining the necessary standard of work.	P	A/I
Work in a corporate context and on a group basis		

KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE		
Knowledge of the public health role of Council, PCT, Community and Voluntary sectors	D	A/I
Knowledge of LSP structures and functions	P	A/I
Knowledge of current national, regional and local policy in relation to the health Improvement and Employability agenda,	P	A/I
Knowledge of LSP/Local Authority/PCT performance management systems	P	A/I
3 years experience in a health and social care related area	D	A/I/R
Experience of workforce/ workplace health promotion	D	A/I
3 years experience in project management	D	A/I

REQUIREMENTS	IMPORTANCE	ASSESSMENT
ATTRIBUTES		
Adaptability – flexible approach to new / changing procedures	E	I/R
Self-motivated – able to work both independently and as part of a team And achieve agreed targets and standards	E	I/R

KEY	E = Essential P = Preferred D = Desirable A = Application C = Certificates I = Interview R = Reference
------------	---

Appendix 2
Food & Health Project costings

Cost Area	Jan-March 2007	April 2007-March 2008	Total Costs
	£	£	£
Staff costs	5,936	35,624	41,560
PCP fixed costs- workstation	275	1,473	1,748
Project budget (grants)	4,990	6,010	11,000
Administration support (5%)	296	1,781	2,077
Management Fee (12.5%)	742	4,453	5,195
Total	12,239	49,341	61,580

Staff Costs based on evaluated SO2 post (SCP 34)
Percentage on-costs based on main staff costs only

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 8

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday,
9 January 2007

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor A. Gray (Chairman) and

Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, Mrs. J. Croft, B. Hall, J.G. Huntington,
J.M. Khan, B. Meek, G. Morgan, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and
Mrs. I. Jackson Smith

In

Attendance: Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, V. Crosby, G.C. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray,
D.M. Hancock, J.E. Higgin, J.P. Moran, J. Robinson J.P, T. Ward and
J. Wayman J.P

Apologies: Councillors K. Henderson, J.K. Piggott and G.W. Scott

OSC(1).24/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members had no declarations of interest to submit.

OSC(1).25/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

OSC(1).26/06 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CORPORATE EQUALITY PLAN - PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Organisational Development setting out progress made to date on equality issues within the Council against the Corporate Equality Plan. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report set out progress to date on the following: -

- Corporate Equality Group
- Impact Needs Requirements Assessments (INRAs)
- Departmental Equality and Diversity Group
- Service Planning Guidance
- Training
- Future Issues

It was noted that the Council had achieved Level 1 Equality Standard for Local Government. It was anticipated that the work being carried out in relation to Level 2 would be completed by 31st March 2007.

Members queried whether the Council had adopted a policy relating to Sexual Orientation. It was explained that the Corporate Equality Plan

outlined legislative obligations with regard to all equality issues including sexual orientation.

- RECOMMENDED:*
- 1. That progress made to date be noted.*
 - 2. That progress against the Corporate Equality Plan be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 on an annual basis.*

OSC(1).27/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT - REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER INFORM - CABINET RESPONSE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee detailing Cabinet's response and action plan following its consideration of the recommendations arising from the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Review of the Council's Community Newspaper, Inform. (For copy see file of Minutes).

A suggested timetable for the implementation of Cabinet's recommendations was also attached to the report.

Concern was expressed that although the Review Group had considered how departments within the Council could utilise Inform for advertising, this was not reflected in the report.

It was pointed out that both recommendation 8 – **Internal advertising to remain free of charge to provide the opportunity for Departments to promote their services and any forthcoming events to all residents of the Borough** and recommendation 11 – **Procedures for identifying articles for Inform be reviewed to ensure that appropriate news is included** – both related to internal advertising in Inform.

- RECOMMENDED:*
- 1. That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations of the Review, together with the implementation timetable outlined, be noted.*
 - 2. That progress on the Action Plan be reviewed in six months.*

OSC(1).28/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT - REVIEW OF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION - CABINET RESPONSE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee detailing Cabinet's response and action plan following its consideration of the recommendations arising from the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Recruitment and Retention. (For copy see file of Minutes).

A suggested timetable for the implementation of Cabinet's recommendations was also attached to the report.

With regard to Recommendation 1 – **Turnover broken down by Department be adopted as a Performance Indicator to be monitored**

by Human Resources and reported periodically to Members - it was noted that the local Performance Indicator (PI) was now reported to Strategic Leadership Working Group and also to Overview and Scrutiny 1.

Reference was made to Recommendation 2 – **Vacant posts which have not been filled in 6 months of the first advertisement be reported to Members**. It was noted that although no posts had remained vacant for 6 months following the first advertisement a report was being produced.

Reference was also made to Recommendation 3 – **Systems to be put in place to monitor turnover/vacancies and recruitment so that any problem areas can be identified**. It was explained that turnover, vacancies and recruitment were monitored on a regular basis. The Human Resources section was however in the process of reviewing the system used for the recruitment of staff.

The levels of ongoing support to the Overview and Scrutiny process was considered and it was agreed that discussions would take place with the Chief Executive.

- RECOMMENDED :*
1. *That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations of the Review together with the implementation timetable outlined be noted.*
 2. *That progress on the Action Plan be reviewed in three months.*
 3. *That the levels of ongoing support to the Overview and Scrutiny process be raised with the Chief Executive.*

OSC(1).29/06 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 204 - THE PERCENTAGE OF APPEALS ALLOWED AGAINST THE AUTHORITY'S DECISION TO REFUSE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members were informed that at the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 held on 12th December 2006 concern was expressed regarding the number of appeals allowed against the Authority's decision to refuse on planning applications. It was felt that a contributing factor to the reduction in performance was the turnover of staff, staffing levels and difficulty in recruiting experienced planning officers. This caused a lack of continuity in dealing with applications and increased pressure on existing more experienced staff.

It was therefore recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 examine the pay structure within the Development Control Division including an analysis of comparative salaries in adjacent authorities and the cost and implications of using temporary agency staff to fill posts.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services was present at the meeting to discuss the pay structure within the Development Control Division and to respond to Members' questions.

It was reported that the Council had experienced difficulties in recruiting experienced Planning Inspectors as a result of the salary offered. This issue had been recognised, however, and a report proposing changes to the role of two Senior Development Officer posts would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 11th January 2007.

The proposed changes to the post specification which included providing guidance and supervising junior members of staff, including Planning Officers, would enable a more competitive salary to be offered.

It was hoped that the re-organisation of the Development Control Team would offer a career path to less experienced Planning Officers and encourage them to continue their employment with Sedgefield Borough Council.

Members were of the opinion that the difficulties encountered in recruiting experienced Planning Officers may not be resolved until after the review of Local Government was completed.

Reference was made to the fact that there was a national shortage of Planning Officers. It was therefore felt that it was beneficial for the Council to recruit graduate Planning Officers.

Members expressed concern that the increase in turnover and the use of agency staff had resulted in instability and a lack of consistency in Planning Officers decisions.

It was felt that the guidance provided by the two Senior Development Control Officers would ensure consistency when making planning decisions.

- RECOMMENDED :*
- 1. That the information be received.*
 - 2. That an interim report on developments following proposals to address staffing issues in Development Control Division be received in 3 months and a full report in 6 months.*

OSC(1).30/06 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was reported that Cabinet would consider the recommendations from the Sickness Management Review Group at its meeting on 11th January 2007.

Cabinet had considered the recommendations from the Review of the Council's Community Newspaper - Inform, and had provided feedback for Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1.

With regard to future topics for review, it was explained that new reviews would not commence until after the Borough elections in May 2007.

AGREED: 1. That the Work Programme be noted.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Mrs. L. Walker Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4237 email lwalker@sedgefield.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 9a

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 2 FORUM

Dean Bank and Ferryhill
Literary Institute

Tuesday,
9 January 2007

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. C. Potts (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T.F. Forrest	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.E. Higgin	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Hodgson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B. Meek	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G. Morgan	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor R.A. Patchett	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor V.E. Cooke	–	Bishop Middleham Parish Council
Councillor T. Sheehan	–	Bishop Middleham Parish Council
L. Hardy	–	Bishop Middleham Play Area Group
C. Gilbert	–	Bishop Middleham Play Area Group
L. Smith	–	Bishop Middleham Play Area Group
A. Willis	–	Bishop Middleham Play Area Group
D. Younger	–	Bishop Middleham Play Area Group
C. Heal	–	Chilton Partnership
M. Mitchell	–	Chilton West Residents Association
M. Taylor	–	Chilton West Residents Association
B. Shephard	–	Dean Bank Literary Institute
J. Weston	–	Dean Bank Residents Association
Acting Sergeant J. Burdess	–	Durham Constabulary
T. Garrett	–	Ferryhill Community Partnership
A. Hall	–	Ferryhill Station Residents Association
G. Hall	–	Ferryhill Station Residents Association
A. Dunning	–	NECA
J. Birchall	–	The Ladder Centre
Councillor S. Drew	–	West Cornforth Parish Council
P. Craythorne	–	Local Resident
P. Forrest	–	Local Resident
R. Hopper	–	Local Resident
T. Okey	–	Local Resident
J. Williamson	–	Local Resident

In

Attendance: A. Megginson – Sedgefield Borough

Apologies:

Councillor B.F. Avery	-	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor D.A. Newell	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Ms. M. Predki	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
A. Rutherford	–	Chilton Partnership
Councillor W. Wilson	–	Cornforth Parish Council
K. Lyn	–	Cornforth Partnership
Councillor G. Porter	–	Durham County Council
A. Learmonth	–	County Durham Primary Care Trust
D. Lonsdale	–	Local Resident

AF(2)19/06 COUNCILLOR J. CHAPLIN

A minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect for Councillor J. Chaplin who recently passed away.

AF(2)20/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared an interest in Item 7 – Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme :-

Councillor A. Hodgson	-	Prejudicial – Member of Cabinet
Councillor R.A. Patchett	-	Prejudicial – Member of Cabinet
Councillor V.E. Cooke	-	Prejudicial – Member of Bishop Middleham Parish Council
Councillor T. Sheehan	-	Prejudicial – Member of Bishop Middleham Parish Council

AF(2)21/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st October, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Specific reference was made to AF(2)15/06 – Police Report – it was pointed out that rather than two PCSOs being based in West Cornforth there would be one PCSO and one Constable in that area.

AF(2)22/06 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report detailing an application submitted to be appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section for funding from the Local Improvement Programme. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report details information for Area 2 Forum for their consideration and comment, which would be used to formulate a report and recommendations which would be submitted to Sedgefield Borough Council Cabinet.

Bishop Middleham Play Area Renewal Scheme

Councillor T. Sheehan, Bishop Middleham Parish Council and A. Willis, Bishop Middleham Play Area Group attended the meeting to give a presentation on the proposed project, which would provide new play equipment and safety surfacing to a supervised toddlers play area at the rear of the village hall and a series of enhancements to the main childrens play area at the leisure park within the village.

It was pointed out that a village appraisal had been carried out were it was found that improvements to the play area was a high priority. Pictures of the proposed equipment for the sites were also produced.

It was pointed out that the total cost of the project was £116,903 with a request of £69,320 from the Local Improvement Programme.

AGREED: *That Cabinet be recommended to support the Bishop Middleham Play Area Renewal Scheme.*

AF(2)23/06 POLICE REPORT

Acting Sergeant J. Burdess attended the meeting to give details of the crime figures and local initiatives for the area.

It was reported that the crime figures for the area were as follows: -

	<u>October:</u>	<u>November:</u>
Burglary	6	17
Burglary Other	10	13
Vehicle Crime	14	8
Criminal Damage	65	50
Violent Crime	28	21
Theft	32	33

Members were informed that the Community Beat Team now included four PCSO officers, four Police Constables with another PCSO due to complete their training in 3 to 4 weeks.

Members of the Forum were updated on Operation Maximino, which targeted crime in Ferryhill Town and Operation Dark, which was aimed at highlighting safety measures to properties during the dark winter months.

With regard to anti-social behaviour, it was explained that the Broom area and Ferryhill Market Place had been identified as hotspot areas. Patrols had therefore been targeting the area and a reduction in reports had been noted. An amount of alcohol had also been seized from those under aged.

Detailed discussion was held regarding the nature of crimes highlighted in the statistics table and whether the statistics could be broken down further into Ward areas and into a league table to identify where the crimes were taking place. It was agreed that the suggestion be looked into.

With regard to anti-social behaviour discussion was held as to ways of combating the problems. The development of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA), youth clubs and supervised activities were all considered. It was suggested that contact be made with Durham County Council or Sedgefield Borough Council's Strategy and Regeneration Section.

Concerns were raised regarding the Police Station at Ferryhill and limited services provided from the reception. It was explained that the station was unmanned as all officers would usually be on patrol. Spennymoor and Newton Aycliffe were the only stations with manned receptions. Any reports could be made via the Police Communications Centre. Questions were also raised regarding the post box at the station and how often it was emptied. It was explained that post was usually collected from Spennymoor Police Station, however, Acting Sergeant Burgess agreed to check with other staff as to whether the post box was still used.

Members of Cornforth Parish Council had been approached to make a financial contribution to a computer system purchased by the Police to identify hot spot areas and areas where those convicted had taken up residence to monitor behaviour. Since that time no further information had been provided, Acting Sergeant Burdess agreed to look into the matter.

Concern was finally raised with regard to Police attendance at public meetings. It was explained that the public raised concerns at recent Town and Parish Council meetings where the Police had decided to stop attending. It was pointed out that the Police had felt that Area Forums were the most effective way of receiving public views and would continue to attend those.

AF(2)24/06 SEDGEFIELD necA HIGH STREET PROJECT

Ann Dunning had attended the meeting to give a presentation regarding Sedgefield necA High Street project.

It was explained that necA (North East Council of Addictions) was the largest regional charity working in the area for substance use/misuse. Its remit included all forms of substance dependency including illicit drugs, alcohol, prescribed medication, over the counter preparations, nicotine, solvents, gases and gambling. Its Counsellors worked as part of a multi-disciplinary team with other agencies such as DISC, Probation Service, Health and Social Care, GPs, Prisons, Independent Service Providers, Schools, Colleges and Voluntary organisations.

Services provided by necA included complementary services such as acupuncture, aromatherapy, reflexology which were proven to be effective in enhancing treatment programmes for drug users and supported housing to clients experiencing misuse problems.

It was noted that the biggest addiction problem related to alcohol.

The High Street project offered free confidential one-to-one appointments with professional qualified counsellors and referral to other agencies if required.

**AF(2)25/06 QUESTIONS
Local Improvement Programme**

It was questioned whether the Forum could be updated once Local Improvement Programme applications had been considered by Cabinet and were successful. It was agreed to take back to the relevant officer to produce a feedback report for a future meeting.

AF(2)26/06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20th February, 2007 at West Cornforth Community Centre at 6.30 p.m.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Miss S. Billingham, Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4240, sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk

Item 9b

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 3 FORUM

Trimdon Colliery
Community Centre

Wednesday,
10 January 2007

Time: 7.00 p.m.

- Present:** Councillor T. Ward (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and
- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Councillor D.R. Brown | – | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| Councillor J. Burton | – | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels | – | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| Councillor J. Robinson J.P | – | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| Councillor J. Wayman J.P | – | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| P. Irving | – | County Durham Primary Care Trust |
| Mrs. T. Wilkinson | – | County Durham Primary Care Trust |
| Sergeant B. O'Connor | – | Durham Constabulary |
| J. Irvine | – | Fishburn Parish Council |
| P. Ellwell | – | Sedgefield Development Trust |
| I. Harbottle | – | Sedgefield and Wynyard Against Turbines |
| Ms. L. Harbottle | – | Sedgefield and Wynyard Against Turbines |
| Ms. J. Smith | – | Sedgefield and Wynyard Against Turbines |
| Mrs. J. Bowles | – | Sedgefield Village Residents Forum |
| Mrs. G. Norton | – | Trimdon Resident |
- Apologies:**
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Councillor K. Noble | - | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| Mrs. L. Ackland | – | Sedgefield Community College |
| Mrs. A. Dunning | – | Sedgefield NECa |
| Councillor Mrs. M. Robinson | – | Sedgefield Town Council |
| Councillor Mrs. L. Burton | – | Trimdon Parish Council |
| Councillor R. Passfield | – | Trimdon Parish Council |
- AF(3)21/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Members had no declarations of interests to submit.
- AF(3)22/06 MINUTES**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).
- AF(3)23/06 POLICE REPORT**
Sergeant B. O'Connor was present at the meeting to give details of crime statistics in the area. It was reported that the crime statistics were as follows:-

<u>Type of Crime :</u>	<u>Sedgefield:</u>	<u>Fishburn:</u>	<u>Trimdon Village :</u>	<u>Trimdon Grange/Station:</u>
Theft	7	3	2	4
Criminal Damage	7	7	6	1
Burglary (Dwelling)	2	0	1	0
Burglary (Other)	7	0	1	4
Assault	3	1	2	0
Vehicle Crime	3	1	1	0
Anti-social Behaviour	33	15	32	7
Violence against a person	0	0	0	1
Incidents reported	252	85	147	60

Reference was made to anti-social behaviour, especially in Trimdon Village and Trimdon Colliery. It was explained that a number of complaints of anti social behaviour related to incidents at Church Road, Trimdon Village and Harpers Corner, Trimdon Colliery.

It was pointed out that the number of complaints relating to the play area at Skerne Avenue had reduced. It was felt however, that fencing surrounding the play area was still required.

Reference was made to alcohol consumption, especially by people under the age of 18, and the effect this had on the level of anti-social behaviour.

It was explained that the problem was people purchasing alcohol for the consumption by people under the age of 18. This was an issue throughout the Borough.

It was felt that a multi-agency approach was required in order to address the problem effectively. It was agreed that D. Scarr, Head of Neighbourhood Services, would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Forum to discuss the issue. It was also felt that the issue should be raised at the Local Strategic Partnership.

Concern was expressed regarding the difficulties encountered in trying to contact the Police using the non emergency telephone number. It was explained that the problem had been acknowledged and extra staff were to be recruited. It was hoped that this would increase the contact rate.

Members of the Forum supported the role of the Police and recognised the need for additional funding.

AF(3)24/06

COUNTY DURHAM PRIMARY CARE TRUST

P. Irving and Mrs. T. Wilkinson were present at the meeting to give an update on local health matters.

Detailed discussion took place in relation to dentistry in Sedgefield. It was explained that in April 2006 the PCT became the commissioner and budget holder for dentistry. There were 11 dental practices in Sedgefield Borough offering NHS and private dentistry.

It was explained that from 31st January 2007, Mr. Edmund's dental practice at Sedgefield would treat private patients only. The PCT had set up a Helpline for patients and an article had been published in the Sedgefield News.

Patients requiring access to NHS dental Services were advised to contact the Burgess Hyder Group practices at Trimdon, Chilton or Ferryhill or the Mr. Jeyarajan practice at Newton Aycliffe.

The restoration of NHS dentistry was an interim provision. The long term vision of the PCT was to replace the NHS provision in Sedgefield.

Concern was expressed regarding the cost of the private scheme adopted by Mr. Edmunds. It was pointed out that although patients were paying into a private scheme, costs for treatment were still being made.

It was pointed out that dentists were independent contractors and therefore responsible for their own pricing schemes.

Members of the Forum were of the opinion that Mr Edmunds dental practice did not adequately publicise the changes in service.

It was suggested that the PCT update local residents on the position in relation to NHS Dentistry by publishing articles in the Sedgefield News publication.

Concern was expressed in relation to the opening hours of doctors' surgeries. It was felt that opening hours were not always convenient for the public. It was explained that as part of "Our Health Our Care Our Say" doctors' surgeries were expected to have more flexible opening hours.

It was also pointed out that the surgery manager at Sedgefield practice held patient forums where patients could raise concerns.

The concerns of the Forum would be raised with the Primary Care Director.

Reference was made to men's health. It was felt that investment into men's health e.g. prostate cancer screening, was required.

AF(3)25/06

SEDGEFIELD NECA

There was no representative from Sedgefield NECa High Street Project at the meeting.

AF(3)26/06

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 28th February 2007 at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Mrs. L. Walker Tel 01388 816166 ext 4237 email lwalker@sedgefield.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 9c

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 4 FORUM

Shildon Sunnydale
Leisure Centre

Tuesday,
16 January 2007

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor D.M. Hancock (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and
Councillor J.M. Smith – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. I. Jackson Smith – Sedgefield Borough Council
Acting Inspector S. Ball - Durham Constabulary
Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman - Durham County Council
J. Johnson - New Shildon Residents Association
C. Thompson - New Shildon Residents Association
E. Carr - Shildon Community Safety Group
C.A. Fletcher - Shildon Community Safety Group
S. Naylor - Shildon Salvation Army
M. Quigley - Tenants and Residents Association
East Thickley
C. Hind - Local Resident

Apologies: Councillor G.M.R. Howe - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.G. Huntington – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. L. Smith – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor H. Robinson – Eldon Parish Council

AF(4)25/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members had no interests to declare.

AF(4)26/06 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AF(4)27/06 POLICE REPORT
Acting Inspector S. Ball was present at the meeting to give statistics for the area.
The reported crime figures for November and December 2006 were as follows:

	November 2006 :	December 2006 :
Total Crime	98	105
Violent Crime	18	8
Burglary (Dwelling)	7	4
Burglary (Other)	10	16
Criminal Damage	31	32
Vehicle Theft	8	4
Theft from Vehicle	8	18
Shoplifting	2	7
Total Theft	30	41
Rowdy/Nuisance Behaviour	84 (67 youth related)	79 (50% youth related)

It was pointed out that assistance had been provided by CID to deal with increased number of crimes in particular, burglary (other) and theft from vehicles. This support, coupled with intelligence from the community, had led to a number of arrests being made and an improved detection rate.

It was reported that Shildon now had 4 PCSOs, resulting in more officers patrolling the streets.

Acting Inspector Ball expressed his disappointment regarding the poor attendance at the meeting. He explained that the Police were committed to attending Area Forum meetings to give details of crime and police operations in the local area and to respond to the concerns of local residents.

Residents expressed concern regarding the problem of motorists parking on pavements and grassed verges in the New Shildon. It was reported that parking on footpaths was classed as 'an illegal obstruction of the highway' and the Police would take enforcement action, if necessary.

AF(4)28/06 COUNTY DURHAM PRIMARY CARE TRUST

It was noted that there was no representative of the Trust present to give an update on local health matters/performance figures.

Members of the Forum expressed their disappointment that despite the representations made by local authorities, trade unions and the Bishop Auckland MP, County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust had decided in December to close Ward 3 at Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

AF(4)29/06 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Members of the Forum queried whether any projects in Shildon had obtained LIP funding.

It was reported that Town Council had submitted applications for funding for CCTV cameras for Hackworth Park and the redevelopment of Hackworth Park tennis courts.

The former had unfortunately not met the criteria for LIP funding. The latter, had been supported by the Forum at its November meeting and would be the subject of a report to Cabinet in February 2007.

AF(4)30/06 DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS

Local residents expressed concern regarding a number of buildings in Shildon that were in a dilapidated condition. The Chairman agreed to enquire whether the Council could take any action.

AF(4)31/06

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6th March 2007 at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre at 6.30 p.m.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Miss S. Billingham, Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4240, sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank