

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.

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Ward: Low Spennymoor and Tudhoe Grange

Key Decision Validation: Not applicable

Background Papers:

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|-----------------|---|-----------|
| 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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