

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
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- 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"/>

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