

# Item 9

## REPORT TO CABINET

31<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### Portfolio: Social Regeneration & Partnership

#### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – Jubilee Fields Community Centre

##### 1. 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 determination.
- 1.2 The project aims to upgrade the sports hall and lounge/dining rooms to enable the centre to become a more viable enterprise through better and expanded utilisation of existing space within the centre. The works will include installation of a sound proof shutter within the dining area space, replacement of existing sports hall flooring with a multi-use flooring, installation of sound proof wall material, and replacement of windows in the sports hall.
- 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 **£75,000** of LIP funding, which is 100% of the total capital project costs of £75,000. See Section 5 – resource implications.

##### 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 Jubilee Fields Community Association, and is located in Shildon. The Jubilee Fields Community Centre is a purpose built community facility situated on the edge of the Jubilee Fields housing estate in the Thickley Ward of Shildon. Historically this has been a highly disadvantaged area; there is low income, high unemployment, poor health, poor education skills, high crime and many barriers for well-being. It was against this background residents came together and decided that a community facility was needed for local people. The voluntary management committee formed and worked tirelessly with the residents to fundraise the monies required to carry out the initial community centre build. Funding was obtained in 2000 from the Lottery's Board, One North East, Church Urban Fund and the Single Regeneration Budget for the build of the centre.
- 3.3 The building is a focal point on the Jubilee Fields estate providing various sized rooms and a sports hall offering a warm, secure venue for a variety of activities including, Mothers/Fathers/Carers & Toddlers, Junior & Youth Clubs, Twice weekly Luncheon Club, 5-a-side football, Indoor carpet bowls, Citizens Advice Bureau, Be Enterprise Coach (SBC), Debt Advice Sessions, Employment Services, Surestart – Musical Messy tots plus others.
- 3.4 This project aims to upgrade the sports hall, lounge/dining rooms to enable the centre to become more viable. The sports hall is currently underused due to the poor floor covering/play surface. Use of this facility is also restricted due to the acoustic conditions in the hall, which both make certain events untenable. The Lounge/Dining Room area is currently underused due to the room divider not being fit for purpose, as a result the rooms cannot be divided and does not provide adequate privacy for users.
- 3.5 The applicant has stated that these improvements will allow a wider range of community functions to take place within the Centre and ensure participation from throughout the Shildon community. The applicant hopes that community functions will enhance the perception of the centre and lead to increased diverse usage.

### **4.0 CORPORATE POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Community Association own the land and building.

## **5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Area Forum 4 has been allocated £456,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009. £61,839 has been allocated to date.
- 5.2 The applicant has requested **£75,000** of LIP funding, which is 100% of the total capital project costs of £75,000 for the refurbishment work. Sedgefield Borough Council Enterprise Facilitator is working with the group on producing a Business Plan and identifying possible future funding.
- 5.3 The Community Association will manage and maintain the facility; the revenue costs will be funded by income from room hire charges, funding streams and local fundraising.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 A Community Consultation Day was held and a questionnaire was provided to the local residents to gather information on their opinion of the centre. The results showed a clear need for the refurbishment of the hall and lounge/dining area.
- 6.2 Letters of support have been attached to the application from current and potential user groups, including Volunteer Centre, Shaw Trust and Shildon Mustard Seed Project.

## **7.0 AREA FORUM RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 A positive response was received to the proposed project by the Area 4 Forum at its meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

## **8.0 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 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.
- 8.3 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.

## 9.0 **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:** Thickley Ward, Shildon

**Key Decision Validation:** Not Applicable

### **Background Papers:**

- | <b>Internal</b> |   |           |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| 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**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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"/>