

Item 5b

REPORT TO CABINET

9TH OCTOBER 2008

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Portfolio: Social Regeneration & Partnership

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – Bishop Middleham Village Hall.

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 2 Forum, this report provides information to Cabinet for determination.
- 1.2 The project aims to address the issues currently facing the Bishop Middleham Village Hall. A new roof will be installed, stage and hall floors will be refurbished and new lighting and stage curtains installed. An upgraded zoned heating system will also be installed, to address rising energy costs.
- 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 **£39,128** of LIP funding, which is 92% of the total capital project costs of £42,428.

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 Bishop Middleham Village Hall Association and is located in Bishop Middleham Village. The Village hall is currently used by residents, Parish Council, voluntary organisations and the local primary school.
- 3.3 The project consists of replacing the roof, new stage and hall floors, lighting and stage curtains, and upgraded zoned heating system with the aim of improving the village hall to enable more community use.
- 3.4 The LIP application has outlined the need to upgrade the heating system with a zoned system, which will enable two separate sections of the building to be heated individually or the whole building to be heated when needed. The system would be controlled on a 7 day digital time switch and will help to reduce heating costs. The roof is in poor condition and not watertight therefore in need of replacement, which will not only make the building watertight but also insulate the building. Replacement of the stage floor, installation of new lighting and curtains will bring this area back into a more productive use, attracting local drama group and local school groups into staging productions on a regular basis. The main hall floor is currently in poor condition and is in need of resurfacing to enable variety of uses.
- 3.5 The village hall is the only community facility of its type in the village. Over recent years the facility has benefited from some refurbishment such as a front entrance.

4.0 CORPORATE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Village Hall is owned by the Village Hall Association. The group aim to secure the Hall for future use and expand the available activity to local people.

5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Area Forum 2 has been allocated £836,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009. A number of projects have been supported in the previous years to the value of £370,498
- 5.2 The applicant has requested **£39,128** of LIP funding, which is 92% of the total capital project costs of £42,428 for the refurbishment work. The Village Hall Association will fund the remaining capital costs.
- 5.3 The Village Hall Association will manage and maintain the facility; the revenue costs will be funded by income from room hire charges and local fundraising.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 A questionnaire has been circulated within the users groups and also within the wider village catchment area to inform the proposal.
- 6.2 Letters of support have been attached with the application.

7.0 AREA FORUM RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 A positive response was received to the proposed project by the Area 2 Forum at it's meeting held on 26th February 2008. The Area Forum agreed to support the progress of this project to the full amount requested. Since that date the Capital Programme Team have been working with the applicant on the back-up evidence and costs information through the project appraisal process.

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.
- 8.5 Sustainability - the project has links to the Council's Sustainable Energy and Water Policy, meeting policy area to; Promote the importance of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases to our partners and stakeholders and also to reduce energy costs. The applicant has been put in touch with SBC Energy Officer to support and provide appropriate guidance to successfully address the aim of improved energy efficiency.

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.

Contact Officer: Nicola Woodgate
Telephone number: (01388) 824002
Email Address: nwoodgate@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward: Bishop Middleham and Cornforth

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"/>