

Item 5e

KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET

9th OCTOBER 2008

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Portfolio: Social Regeneration & Partnership

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – St Oswalds Park Refurbishment – Newton Aycliffe

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 5 Forum, this report provides information to Cabinet for determination.
- 1.2 The project aims to carry out a number of specific improvements in St Oswalds Park, Newton Aycliffe. This includes creation of a new junior play area on the former roller skating rink, replace the equipment in the infants play area and create a formal garden within St Oswalds Park, Newton Aycliffe as well as a picnic area on the site of the former junior play area.
- 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 **£134,017** of LIP funding, which is 55% of the total capital project costs of £243,813.

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 Great Aycliffe Town Council, and is located in St Oswald's Park in Newton Aycliffe. Whilst the park is used at present, due to its age and changes in public demands the applicant has highlighted that the park is unable to serve the community as well as it should. A central theme of the project is to expand the offer to a larger age range and offer more family focussed activity.
- 3.3 There are four areas which will be targeted by this project. These are the disused roller skating rink, disused Bowling Green, existing junior play area and existing infant play area.
- 3.4 The roller skating rink is no longer used; the proposal for this area will be to create a 5-12 year old focused play area, which will be significantly different from other play areas provided in the Town. The Bowling Green ceased use over 20 years ago, it was further used as a putting green, however this use has also now ceased. The proposal would be to provide a formal garden with seating areas and a central feature. The infant play area has a mixed range of equipment of various ages, the proposal is to remove all equipment and replace with new equipment for use by children up to five years. The junior play area is also in need of investment. Some equipment is nearing the end of its effective life; other items may be salvaged and refurbished for continued use elsewhere in the town. The plan is to move the junior play area to another part of the park and then use this quieter area of the park to create a picnic area.
- 3.5 The plans developed by Great Aycliffe Town Council also include specific adapted equipment for disabled children's activity within the play areas.
- 3.6 Plans of the proposals will be available for Cabinet to consider if they wish.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Area Forum 5 has been allocated £1,140,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009 subject to budget approval. £748,233 has been allocated to projects to date.

- 4.2 The applicant has requested **£134,740** of LIP funding, which is 55% of the total capital project costs of £243,813 for the works. Great Aycliffe Town Council and £30,000 of Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme – Shafto St. Mary’s Ward allocation will fund the remaining capital costs.
- 4.3 Great Aycliffe Town Council will manage and maintain the facility.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 Consultation with residents in support of this application has taken place through the Parish Plan 2006/07 and a Satisfaction survey 2007. Through the Steering Group the Parish Plan carried out Surveys; consultation, and community fairs.
- 5.2 Young people have been involved in the design of the proposed facilities. Questions based around services for play areas – toddler 2-4 year olds; results indicated a need for a toddler area. Investment in play areas came out in the top 5 existing services for investment.
- 5.3 The project aims to address key principles highlighted in the Council’s Play Strategy.

6. AREA FORUM RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 A positive response was received to the proposed project by the Area 5 Forum at it’s meeting held on 29th April 2008. The Area Forum agreed to support this project to the full amount requested.

7. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 Planning Permission and Building Regulation will be applied for if necessary. The applicant has contacted the Planning Department through the Council’s One-Stop-Shop process.
- 7.3 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.

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

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

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Ward: Shafto St Mary's

Key Decision Validation: Key Decision – Amount Requested represents a grant request of over £100,000 from LIP resources.

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"/>