

Item 6

REPORT TO CABINET

8TH JANUARY 2009

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Portfolio: Social Regeneration & Partnership

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – Hackworth Park Extension of Play Facilities

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 their consideration. This project was highlighted as a project that would be brought forward following more development work within the 23rd October Cabinet report that focused on project activity across all Area Forum Areas.
- 1.2 The project provides for an extension of the range of opportunities for play by incorporating traditional fixed play, natural play and inclusive fitness equipment in an area that can be used by all ages.
- 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 £106,647 of LIP funding, which is 82% of the total capital project costs of £130,647. It is recommended that the LIP amount be reduced to **£60,000**, with an additional £27,955 Section 106 monies allocated to the project giving a total contribution of £87,955.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet...

Approve the application for LIP Funds based upon the information provided in the report, and acknowledges the use of Section 106 monies towards the proposal.

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 Shildon Town Council in partnership with Groundwork East Durham and is located in Shildon. The play area is located in Hackworth Park, at present the area consists of a set of swings, a climbing/sliding unit, small rotating unit and a couple of spring pods together with a toddler play area located in the corner of the site. It is planned that the toddler play area will stay in place with the rest of the existing area being extended and refurbished.
- 3.3 The project aims to refurbish and extend the Hackworth Park Play Area by providing a range of visual, textural and physical stimuli to create an attractive environment conducive to a range of play activities and experiences including a natural play element to complement the fixed play opportunities within the site and would include the introduction of boulders, felled trees, mounds and inclines and other natural stimuli. The non-prescriptive nature and variety of play opportunities that will be made available will allow young people with disabilities to share the play experiences in an integrated area. In addition to these improvements, a trail of fixed fitness equipment that is suitable for children and adults to use will be integrated into the area. This would provide an opportunity for adults to engage in physical activity alongside the younger generations.
- 3.4 The applicant has stated that the project will be targeted primarily towards the people of all ages from Shildon and surrounding areas. Young people will have new play opportunities, whilst parents/carers of toddlers will have the ability to exercise while supervising their young dependents. Adults will have a new free resource for exercise and physical activity. It is anticipated that organised older people groups such as Nifty Fifties can hold exercise sessions using the new equipment.

4.0 CORPORATE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The park is owned by Shildon Town Council
- 4.2 The project links to all seven objectives of the Sedgefield Borough Council's Play Strategy as well as linking to the Play England – Play for a Change Report, where it is suggested that play should be based on a sense of free will and control either individually or within a group, and should be unpredictable, spontaneous, innovative, and creative. As this

project targets this type of play it will provide a facility which is different to other play areas within the Borough.

5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Area Forum 4 has been allocated £456,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009. £287,101 has been allocated to date, leaving a balance of £168,899 against the original budget forecast.
- 5.2 The applicant had initially requested £106,647 of LIP funding, which represented 82% of the total capital project costs of £130,647. It is recommended that the LIP amount be reduced to **£60,000**, with additional Section 106 monies to the value of £27,955 from local developments earmarked towards the scheme.
- 5.3 The reduced LIP offer is suggested to be able to balance the request against remaining available funds within Area 4 LIP allocation. The Town Council has made a number of applications for match funding to complete the funding package and decisions will be made early in 2009.
- 5.4 Shildon Town Council will manage and maintain the facility.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The applicant has stated that Groundwork East Durham has undertaken background research and consultation. The consultation targeted children from local schools, youth groups/organisations, adult activity/social groups and the Age Concern Networking group. In addition open public consultation was undertaken in which members of the public were given an opportunity to comment on the ideas and plans. Over 150 people provided ideas and comments to the proposals, which have been taken into consideration in the final proposals developed.
- 6.2 The applicant has received support for the project from Sedgefield Borough Council Leisure Services and County Durham PCT.

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 23rd September 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.

Contact Officer: Linda Goundry
Telephone number: (01388) 824002
Email Address: lgoundry@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward: Byerley Ward, Shildon

Key Decision Validation: Not Applicable

Background Papers:

Internal

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| 1 | Promotion Of The Regeneration Of The Borough Housing Land Capital Receipts To Support Regeneration And Affordable Housing Provision | June 2005 |
| 2 | Local Improvement Programme – update on current position and consideration of proposed projects | October 2008 |

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"/>