

Item 4

REPORT TO CABINET

8TH JANUARY 2009

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Portfolio: Social Regeneration & Partnership

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – Tudhoe Moor Play Area

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 1 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 aims to carry out physical improvements to the play park situated adjacent to Tudhoe Moor estate. The project comprises of the removal and replacement of the play equipment and safety surfacing as well as the replacement of a small grass football pitch with a non floodlit Multi-Use Games Area.
- The project meets the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) eligible 'Regeneration' Definition. ✓
 - The project has also demonstrated links to the key LIP criteria of meeting elements of the Community Strategy and community consultation. ✓
- 1.3 The applicant has requested **£98,490** of LIP funding, which is 61% of the total capital project costs of £160,735.

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 Spennymoor Town Council and Groundwork East Durham.
- 3.3 The project aims to remove and replace the existing play equipment and safety surfacing with innovative Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant equipment, remove the vandalised youth shelter, incorporate a non floodlit Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) including improved drainage to the site, install a modular play system, install seating, litterbins, signage and landscaping and improve access to the park.
- 3.4 A central theme of the application is to develop play provision on a campus approach to provide additional facilities to the immediate catchment area that includes Tudhoe Moor Nursery School and also a local Surestart facility. These facilities cater for children within a ward identified within the top 20% on the overall indices of deprivation.
- 3.5 The site itself is identified on the Open Space Needs Assessment as in need of improvement and an upgrade of the play equipment is required.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Area Forum 1 has been allocated £836,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009. £688,589 has been allocated through the 3 year programme to date, leaving a balance of £147,411 against the original budget forecast.
- 4.2 The applicant had originally requested £106,615 of LIP funding, which was 66% of the total capital project costs of £160,735 for the works. The remaining capital costs will be funded by Spennymoor Town Council and Durham County Council Urban and Rural Renaissance Initiative monies - £25,000. In addition to the LIP request Section 106 funding of £8,125 has been identified towards the project from a neighbouring development which would enable a reduction to the LIP to **£98,490** which is 61% of the total project cost.
- 4.3 Spennymoor Town Council will manage and maintain the facility as part of their annual capital budget.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 In July 2006, Spennymoor Town Council had a survey conducted of all of their formal play areas. The Tudhoe Moor play area was identified as in need of renewal. The existing play equipment and the safety surfacing is old and in poor condition and limits stimulating play opportunities.
- 5.2 In mid 2008 Spennymoor Town Council employed Groundwork East Durham to undertake a detailed consultation and design for the project. During the consultation, a display was put up at Tudhoe Moor Nursery. Groundwork staff manned the display on 2 occasions to allow members of the public to discuss their issues and ideas. Information of these events was circulated to schools, residents association, community groups and local councillors. Information was also included in the local community newspaper and shops and public buildings displayed information about the events.
- 5.3 Spennymoor Youth Club and North Park Primary School were also targeted to ensure that the ideas and opinions of the users of the facility were captured. The proximity of the site to surrounding houses also led Groundwork to consult with the immediate neighbours of the site, particularly given the suggested inclusion of a MUGA.
- 5.4 The results of all the consultation mentioned above show public support for the regeneration of the existing play area.

6 AREA FORUM RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 A positive response was received to the proposed project by the Area 1 Forum at its meeting held on 1st September 2008. The Area Forum agreed to support the progress of this project.

7 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The application has undergone an appraisal against the LIP criteria. The application has met the key elements of the LIP criteria, and demonstrated links to the Community Strategy priorities.
- 7.2 Planning Permission will be applied for. No funding will be released until all statutory permissions are in place. Plans are currently being prepared by the applicant.
- 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: Tudhoe

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 |
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| 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"/> |