

Item 5



Local Improvement Programme

...Making life better in your neighbourhood

Summary of Local Improvement Programme (LIP) for Prosperous & Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Presentation – April 29th 2008

The following note provides Overview and Scrutiny members with a summary of the Local Improvement Programme (LIP) to help inform the discussion / presentation on the Programme that will take place at the meeting to be held on 29th April.

A presentation will be given at the meeting that builds on the information presented to the Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee that took place on 29th January 2008.

1. Overview of the Programme

The purpose of the Local Improvement Programme is to tackle the issues facing the Borough linked to aspects of the Community Strategy and intelligence from Community / Area Appraisals.

As part of this process, resources could be released to improve individual sites, buildings and community facilities throughout Sedgefield Borough.

Local community / voluntary organisations and partner Town and Parish Councils can submit project proposals at any time. These are appraised and then discussed at the Area Forum meeting. The Area Forum role is key in providing a view as to the priority of the project within that area. The project is then tabled at the Council's Cabinet, who will assess the project and decide which projects are supported.

2. Criteria

Projects eligible for support through the Local Improvement Programme would need to demonstrate that the project meets the following key criteria:

- Conformity to the Department for Communities and Local Government 'regeneration criteria' which states:

***“The carrying out of works or activities on any land where the land, or a building on the land, is vacant, unused, under-used, ineffectively used, contaminated or derelict;
and
....the works or activities are carried out in order to secure that the land or the building will be brought into effective use.”***

- Clear linkages to the delivery of the Council's **Community Strategy** and its key aims and planned outcomes.

Community Strategy issues include;

- Improve the physical and environmental conditions to help create more sustainable communities.
- Achieve wider regeneration benefits than physical renewal by linking this investment to schemes able to generate other regeneration benefits in areas of skills training, improved health, community safety and greater social and community cohesion.

Projects are also expected to meet the following secondary criteria:

- The project should have carried out **appropriate levels of community consultation** and reference to any local community appraisal. A **clear need for the project must have been identified**.
- The project should have specific **measurable benefits** as to justify any support. These benefits should relate to specific timescales.
- The project should have considered how any recurrent or **revenue funding implications will be managed**.
- Value for money should be clearly demonstrated, to include any match funding from other grant sources as well as accessing a minimum of **3 quotes** regarding the proposals for work.
- Where the applicant is a Town or Parish Council, there should **normally** be the commitment of a financial contribution of approximately one third of the total cost of the project, to ensure the resources being made available are addressing local priorities as well as those of the Council. This contribution could include other external funding that the Town or Parish Council has secured from sources such as the National Lottery, or other funders where opportunities exist. The funding of future revenue implications will also be considered. All applications will be considered on their individual merits.
- Applicants must be set up for **charitable purposes**. We are unable to support commercial organisations through the Local Improvement Programme.
- If the project has a sports focus, applicants must discuss and prepare a **Sports Development Plan** with the Leisure Services section of Sedgfield Borough Council.

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