
REGENERATION PROGRAMMES 2005/06

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor David Lyonette,
Regeneration and Planning Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request the release of capital funds secured from the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) and Single Programme for 2005/06. The release of other external funding and Council contributions to SRB and Single Programme projects is also requested within this report.

Information and Analysis

2. The six-year SRB programme, called Darlington Community Works began in April 2000 and is funded by a grant of £4,565,555 from One NorthEast. The overall programme includes the regeneration of Firthmoor estate as well as a number of town wide economic development projects. As Accountable Body for Darlington Community Works, Darlington Borough Council are responsible for assessing and appraising the individual projects which make up the programme, prior to their approval through various partnership mechanisms.
3. Single Programme funding began in 2002 and provides funds for mainly large-scale, strategic projects, with the aim of enhancing the economy through the creation of jobs and support to the business sector. Tees Valley Partnership have allocated Darlington Borough Council over £7 million of One NorthEast funding between 2002 and 2008, £1.5 million of which has already been spent. Additional funds have also been allocated to Tees Valley Regeneration for the development of Central Park.

Capital Projects Scheduled for 2005/06

4. The above programmes include a number of capital projects due to be undertaken in this financial year. As with all major regeneration schemes in Darlington, the Council are a key partner and will deliver the majority of the activity across these projects. A large proportion of the match funding for the programme will also be secured by Darlington Borough Council, which will mean the majority of the funding for projects will at some stage pass through the Council's financial system. The Council's contribution towards these projects (as detailed below) is programmed into existing Council budgets and does not represent a request for further resources.

SRB - Learning Intranet

5. Installation of cyber kiosks in targeted areas of Darlington to provide access to learning opportunities and resources via a Darlington intranet. Two kiosks have already been installed in the Cornmill and Banktop Station and the locations for a further 7 kiosks have been identified and prioritised by the Community Partnerships. The main risk to this project is maintenance after the SRB grant, however future funding is being explored for this. These kiosks provide access to services from the Council and the Darlington Partnership and contribute to the Improving Electronic Government (IEG) targets.

SRB	£9,082	to be released
Darlington Borough Council Corporate Services	£3,750	to be released

SRB - Town Centre Initiative Phase 2

6. Small scale physical improvements in Bondgate, Skinnergate and the Yards area of the Town Centre to streamline street furniture provision and facilitate a more attractive pavement café area. The project also incorporates a small grants scheme for businesses in the area for general physical improvements. All work relating to this project is expected to be complete by March 2006.

SRB	£23,500	to be released
-----	---------	----------------

Single Programme – Town Centre Pedestrian Heart

7. Large scale enhancements to the Town Centre to create a quality environment. Works include re-organisation of the traffic system, creation of a series of pedestrian spaces and the highlighting of key landmarks.
8. The Darlington Town Centre Pedestrian Heart report, elsewhere on this agenda, provides further details of the project and asks for release of all associated funding. Funding secured for 2005/06 is detailed below:

Single Programme	£1,500,000
Local Transport Plan	£ 500,000
Darlington Borough Council Capital Programme	£1,250,000

9. £93,000 funding from Single Programme was released by Cabinet in January 2005.
10. In relation to Single Programme funding, a further £1,425,000 and £75,000 Single Programme grant has also been secured in 2006/07 and 2007/08 respectively.

Single Programme – Faverdale East Business Park

11. Provision of access infrastructure to open up 10.8ha of land in Faverdale for industrial/office use. Phase One was to introduce site infrastructure (electricity, water, gas and roadworks). This commenced in April 2004 along with some environmental mitigation works, which were undertaken at Horsefield Pond in order to provide a new habitat for great

crested newts.

12. Works to extend the infrastructure further into the site commenced in January 2005 and are due to complete in April 2005. The remainder of the environmental works and landscaping will take place in autumn of 2005. The scheme will be complete by December 2005, and serviced land is anticipated to be available for business premises in 2006.

Single Programme	£500,000	to be released
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	£144,500	
Darlington Borough Council		
Capital Programme	£ 40,000	
Darlington Borough Council		
Industrial Estates Project	£ 27,000	

13. The £67,000 from Darlington Borough Council and £144,500 from ERDF was released by Council on 25 November 2004.

Outcome of Consultation

14. The projects within the programme have all undergone consultation on an individual basis. This is tested as part of a rigorous project appraisal process.

Legal Implications

15. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

16. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

17. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

18. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Recommendation

19. It is recommended that :-

(a) Members release the following funding for use during 2005/06:

Learning Intranet

SRB	£ 9,082
Darlington Borough Council Corporate Services	£ 3,750

Town Centre Initiative

SRB	£ 23,500
-----	----------

Faverdale East Business Park

Single Programme	£ 500,000
------------------	-----------

(b) Members note the use of the following external funding during 2005/06:

Town Centre Pedestrian Heart

Single Programme	£ 1,500,000
Local Transport Plan Darlington Borough Council Capital Programme	£ 500,000
	£ 1,250,000

Faverdale East Business Park

European Regional Development Fund Darlington Borough Council Capital Programme	£ 144,500
Darlington Borough Council Industrial Estates Project	£ 40,000
	£ 27,000

Reasons

20. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) To enable the projects to proceed.
- (b) To enable the council to maximise the amount of external funding available to the Borough.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Background Papers

Darlington Community Works 2005/06 Delivery Plan
Tees Valley Partnership Single Programme Delivery Plan 2003-06

Richard Horniman : Extension 2681