
SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET 2004/05

**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) for 2004/05, other external contributions and the Council's contribution to these projects.

Information and Analysis

2. The six-year Darlington Community Works regeneration programme began in April 2000, funded by a grant of £4,565,555 from the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB). The overall programme includes the regeneration of Firthmoor estate as well as a number of town wide economic development projects.
3. As Accountable Body for the 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.

Capital Projects Scheduled for 2004/05

4. As part of the programme a number of capital projects are due to be undertaken in this financial year.

(a) *Traffic Management (£23,000)*

Construction of traffic calming measures at Holgate Moor Green and Emley Moor Road in Firthmoor, to reduce vehicular speeds and reduce traffic accidents.

(b) *Learning Intranet (£25,250)*

Installation of cyber kiosks in targeted areas of Darlington including the Town Centre, the Railway Station and Morton Park to provide access to learning opportunities and resources via a Darlington intranet.

(c) *Town Centre Initiative Phase 2 (£33,500)*

Small scale physical improvements in Bondgate to streamline street furniture provision

and facilitate a more attractive pavement café area.

(d) *Doorstep Greens (£233,321)*

The creation of a 'Doorstep Green' at Holgate Moor Green in Firthmoor, which is a communal green area, designed by the community, for the community.

(e) *Environmental Action (£18,500)*

Funding reserved for environmental improvement projects in Firthmoor. Details of specific project activity are yet to be confirmed, but members will be informed as part of the budget monitoring process.

Funding Contributions

5. 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 through Darlington Borough Council, which will mean the majority of the funding for projects will at some stage pass through the Council's financial system. This includes the following contributions from external bodies:
 - (a) Traffic Management: £11,500 (Local Transport Plan)
 - (b) Learning Intranet: £3,750 (Darlington's education providers)
 - (c) Town Centre Initiative Phase 2: £10,000 (private sector contribution towards a small grants scheme)
 - (d) Doorstep Greens: £208,571 (St Martins Care Homes £12,000, Countryside Agency £43,450, European Regional Development Fund £111,864, Living Spaces £41,257)
6. Alongside the externally secured match funding, these projects also contain a direct funding contribution from Council budgets, which comprises:
 - (a) Learning Intranet: £3,750 (management, staff training, advisor time, Corporate Services Department)
7. This money is programmed into existing Council budgets and does not represent a request for further resources.
8. In summary, total SRB allocations, Council and other contributions for 2004/05 are as follows:

Project	SRB	Contribution from DBC	Other Contributions	Source
Traffic Management	£11,500	£0	£11,500	LTP
Learning Intranet	£17,750	£3,750 (Corp)	£3,750	Public
Town Centre Initiative Phase 2	£23,500	£0	£10,000	Private
Doorstep Greens	£24,750	£0	£208,571	Private CA, ERDF, LS
Environmental Action	£18,500	£0	£0	-

Local Transport Plan (LTP), Countryside Agency (CA), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Living Spaces (LS)

Legal Implications

9. 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

10. 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.

Outcome of Consultation

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

Council Policy Framework

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

Decision Deadline

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

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that the funding for 2004/05 as detailed in the above table be released subject to final external funding approvals being given by the funding bodies.

Reasons

15. 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

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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