

Application SIB

Funding Source	SIB
Name of Project	Southwick Old Town Hall – The future
Lead Organisation	Southwick Old Town Hall

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£37,222	£31,222	£6,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
Ongoing	Sept 2012	March 2013

The Project

Southwick Old Town Hall is the main heritage building in the area and has been in constant use for the benefit of the people of Southwick. Originally the land and building was given by Robert Thompson (Shipbuilder) as the local board offices for the independent village of Southwick, before it became part of Sunderland. Later it became Southwick clinic and looked after the health of all the people of Southwick, with Doctors etc housed here. The building is now held in trust for the people of Southwick and houses three very different projects all registered charities. The charities are linked through a commitment to young people and the local community. It is extremely important that the building remains in the hands of its trustees to ensure it remains accessible and for the people of the community to use. The building is also used by other groups for meetings, has housed the advice centre for many years along with a mother and toddlers group and Southwick Women's Group. The building is important to the area and should be kept in public use. The grant being sought will enable this use to continue and remain open. There are obviously spiralling costs and the trustees need time to seek further funding. SIB funding will be used to attract other funding and allow the time to look for other sources of income.

The Need for the Project

The Old Town Hall is a landmark which gives Southwick its identity. Buildings such as this are part of the history of the local area that seems to be vanishing all too quickly. The closure of several community buildings in the area means that it is vital that every effort is made to ensure that the Old Town Hall is preserved for future generations. The building is used 6 days a week with an excess of 100 individuals using the building on a weekly basis, with numbers increasing during the summer holidays. The continuation of the three charities housed here is dependant on this building. Without the use of this space they would be unable to offer the activities that support the wellbeing and development of all users.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
A1	Number of new or improved community facilities and equipment	1

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Funding Secured	September 2012
Further funding streams sought	October 2013

The application supports the priorities of Heritage in the North Area.

Recommendation: **Approve** with condition that the project does not apply SIB for future running costs of the building.