



Executive Report
14 March 2012

Agenda Item No.

9A

Title	Historic Building Grants Allocations
For further information about this report please contact	Alan Mayes (Principal Architect/Planner)
Wards of the District directly affected	All
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No If yes state why
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	March Executive 2011
Background Papers	Grants Working Party Background Paper

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	Yes
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes/No (If No state why below)

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		Bill Hunt
Head of Service		Paul Pinkney
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holder(s)		Councillor John Hammon
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Meeting of Grants Working Party made up of Councillors Blacklock, Dean, Kirton and Dhillon together with Alan Mayes and Roger Cullimore held on the 12 January 2012.		
Final Decision?		Yes/No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To report to the Executive the contribution made by the Historic Buildings Grants for 2011/12 and to gain approval for funding allocation for the coming financial year 2012/13 (as recommended by the Grants Working Party).

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Executive approve the proposed allocation for the Historic Buildings Grants for 2012/13 as set out in Appendix A.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The following assessments have been made of each of the current Grant Schemes and recommendations made on the basis of these assessments.
- 3.2 **Leamington Spa Grants** - An allocation of £35,000 (plus slippage of £30,800 for previous commitments) was made to this scheme last year and to-date 34 offers have been made during 2011/12. In order to meet this level of demand funds have been transferred from the Historic Buildings Grants Scheme as the current allocation was oversubscribed.
 - 3.2.1 This Scheme is available to all buildings Listed and Unlisted in the Leamington Spa Conservation Area grants are normally offered at a level of 25% of the cost to a maximum of £2,000 per property and in exceptional cases £3,000. As this Scheme was oversubscribed for the current financial year it is recommended that it be increased to £40,000 for the coming year.
- 3.3 **Warwick Town Grants** – An allocation of £30,000 was made for the Warwick Grant Scheme together with slippage of £15,000. To-date 12 offers and £18,972.00 has paid or committed from this Scheme and £5,000 is proposed to be transferred to Kenilworth Abbey Fund (see below).
 - 3.3.1 This Scheme is available to all Listed and Unlisted Buildings in the Warwick Conservation Area and is allocated on the basis of 25% of the cost to a maximum of £3,000. As there is currently £21,000 unallocated it is recommended that only £10,000 be added from next year's budget to give an allocation of £31,000 for the coming year.
- 3.4 **Historic Buildings Grant Scheme (Whitnash, Kenilworth and Rural Area Scheme)**– an allocation of £35,000 was made for the current financial year together with £5,700 slippage. To-date 18 offers have been made and £24,070 paid or committed. A sum of £5,000 was transferred from this Scheme to the Leamington Spa Scheme in order to maintain funds for grants as noted above.
 - 3.4.1 This Scheme is available to all Listed and Unlisted Buildings in Kenilworth, Whitnash and Rural Conservation Areas together with individual Listed Buildings. As there is unallocated slippage of £5,506 it is recommended that £30,000 be allocated from next year's budget giving a total allocation of £35,506 for the coming year.

3.5 **Other Grant Schemes: (Not requiring allocations of new funds)**

- 3.5.1 **Shop Fronts Grant Scheme** -£15,143 was carried forward last year for shop fronts and to-date £3,000 has been allocated. Although not a particularly popular Grant Scheme it is proposed that £6,100 of this allocation should be carried forward a further year and additional publicity made available to shop owners. The remaining £6,000 it is proposed to transfer to the Rural Enhancement Grant Scheme (see below).
- 3.5.2 **Kenilworth Abbey Grant Scheme** - £20,600 was carried forward last year and £4,000 has been spent. The residue of this fund together with £5,000 transferred from the Warwick Scheme is ring-fenced for proposed restoration works to the roof of the Abbey Gatehouse.
- 3.5.3 **Rural Enhancement Grant Scheme** – £34,700 was carried forward last year of which £29,054 has been spent on enhancement works including new lampposts and lamppost restoration in various Conservation Areas transforming these areas. It is proposed the residue of £5,646 plus £6,000 transferred from the Shop Front Scheme be carried forward for small Rural Enhancement Projects and lamppost works for the coming year.
- 3.5.4 **Urban Enhancement Grants** –£15,500 was carried forward last year which has now all been allocated and paid with the exception of £1,000 for works to Leamington War Memorial.
- 3.5.5 **Conservation Facilitation Funds** –£12,700 was carried forward, to-date approximately £5,000 has been paid out which has funded the Heritage Open Days, a successful weekend in September with approximately 50 venues taking part. It is proposed the remainder of this fund be carried forward and used for Heritage Open Days 2012, the Rural Design Awards and other planned Conservation events.
- 3.5.6 In terms of all these Other Grant Schemes it is not proposed that funding should be allocated from the current year's funds but that the Schemes should continue on the basis of the residual slippage and should additional funds be required for any Schemes these could be transferred from the main funding allocations.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** – the maintenance of the Historic Environment is highlighted in the Warwick District Council's Local Plan and also forms part of the National Guidance in Planning Policy Statement number 5 (Historic Environment) and the Planning (Listed Building in Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The grants have and will continue to contribute to achieving the objectives relating to Culture Environment and the objectives of the Corporate Strategy.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The proposed allocation to a maximum of £100,000 is within the Historic Buildings Allocations in the current budget. As the proposed allocation requires only £80,000 a one off saving of £20,000 is made for the forthcoming year. This has been made possible by slipped funds from two previous years'

allocations being brought forward to make up the current years allocation. Should new schemes or funding be required for 2013/14 the Grants Working Party would wish the allocation of £100,000 to still be considered in subsequent years.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

- 6.1 An alternative option would be to reduce the grant schemes or to abolish the grant scheme. To not have a Grant Scheme at all would significantly affect the Council's ability to assist in maintaining the Historic Environment.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The District Council has for many years supported Historic Buildings Grants to help property owners to maintain/restore historic assets which are a very important part of the environment of Warwick district. It is in this time of financial constraints the maintenance of this type of grant is crucial to many owners of historic properties and recognises the contribution made by the historic environment to the economic and social wellbeing of the district.
- 7.2 Grants are offered in accordance with the Planning (Listed Building in Conservation Areas) Act 1990 which makes provision for Local Authorities to make Historic Buildings Grants. They are available for all Listed and Unlisted Buildings in the Conservation Areas which make a significant contribution to the Conservation Area. Grants are offered normally at a level of 25% of the cost of works to a maximum of £2,000 per property rising to £3,000 in exceptional cases.
- 7.3 A Grants Working Party comprising of four Elected Members together with Conservation Officers meets at the beginning of the calendar year to review the allocation of grants over the past year and to discuss and recommend the allocations for the coming financial year.
- 7.4 The contribution made to the Conservation Area and to individual Listed Buildings is monitored by the Council's Officers when making its final inspection of each grant works, to ensure that funds are being used beneficially for the individual property and for the wider Conservation Area as a whole.
- 7.5 In order to publicise the Grant Schemes this year a press release was distributed and an article in the Courier brought forward a number of enquiries. Letters have been sent to all eligible properties in Warwick and a lunchtime session was held for shop owners to publicise the Shop Front Grant Scheme. It is proposed to send out further letters and other forms of publicity for the Grant Schemes for the coming year.

Historic Buildings Grants 2012/13 Allocations including Slippage

Allocation of 2012/13 - Budget £100,000

Scheme	2011/12 Allocation incl. Slippage	Actual Spend	Committed Funds to be Slipped	Note on Committed Funds	Unallocated Slippage	Proposed 2012/13 Allocations
Leamington Spa Town Grants	£65,800.00	£39,352.00	£25,848.00	All committed to householder grant offers.	-	£40,000
Warwick Town Grants	£45,000.00	£13,650.00	£ 5,322.00	£5,322 committed to householders. £6,000 transferred to Kenilworth Abbey Fund.	£21,028.00	£10,000 (+ Slippage = £31,028.00)
Historic Buildings Grants	£40,900.00	£11,228.00	£24,070.00	£19,000 committed to householders. £5,000 transferred to L/Spa Grants.	£ 5,506.00	£30,000 (+ Slippage = £35,506.00)
				Total excluding slippage		£80,000

Allocation for Other Schemes not requiring 2012/13 Funding

Scheme	2011/12 Allocation incl. Slippage	Actual Spend	Committed Funds to be Slipped	Note on Committed Funds	Unallocated Slippage	Proposed 2012/13 Allocations
Conservation Facilitation Fund	£12,700.00	£ 3,910.41	-	-	£ 8,789.59	£8,789.59 slippage
Shop Front Grants	£15,143.00	-	£ 3,000.00 £ 6,000.00	£3,000 committed to grant offers. £6,000 to be transferred to Rural Enhancement Grants.	£ 6,143.00	£6,143.00 slippage
Rural Enhancement Grants	£34,700.00	£29,054.00	-	-	£ 5,646.00 (+ £6,000 transferred = £11,646)	£11,646.00 slippage
Urban Enhancement Grants	£ 6,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 1,000.00	Committed for use on L/Spa War Memorial.	-	Nil
Kenilworth Abbey Grants	£20,600.00	£ 3,992.00	£16,608.00 (+ £5,000 transferred from Warwick Scheme)	Kenilworth Abbey Fund is ring-fenced for new Abbey Gatehouse Roof.	-	£21,608.00 slippage