

**TO: ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2004**

**SUBJECT: HISTORIC BUILDINGS GRANT SCHEMES IN WARWICK DISTRICT – (ANNUAL REVIEW)**

**FROM: PLANNING AND ENGINEERING**

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide an annual review of the Historic Building Grant Schemes to make recommendations for the way in which funds should be allocated for 2004/5.

**2. BACKGROUND**

The Current Situation

The District Council have for many years supported Schemes of Grants to preserve and enhance the Historic Environment within the District. The following schemes have successfully been operated within the District in the last year.

- (1) Historic Buildings Scheme of Grants offering £20,000 for distribution to Listed Buildings and significant buildings in Conservation Areas within the District. It has been the practice to offer this funding to properties within the rural areas which do not receive grant aid from any other sources. Significant works have been carried out in Kenilworth, Hunningham, Barford, Stoneleigh and Whitnash.
- (2) Warwick Town Scheme of Grants. Offering £10,000 to all Listed Buildings and other significant buildings within the Warwick Conservation Area for restoration and conservation works. This year works have been carried out in the Town Centre, Mill Street and Bridge End.
- (3) The Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants for Royal Leamington Spa. This is operated on the basis of Warwick District Council offering £20,000 and English Heritage matching this with a further £20,000 towards the cost of works to four specific areas within the Conservation Area to the north of the river in Leamington Spa. This has operated for three years which conclude at the end of March 2004. Funds have successfully been distributed for each financial year and significant progress has been made in the Conservation Area in Grove Street, Warwick Street, Sherbourne Terrace, Waller Street and many other parts of the town.
- (4) The Townscape Heritage Economic Scheme of Grants for Royal Leamington Spa. This operates in the Old Town area of Leamington and has been operating for three years and will conclude in March 2004. This operates on the basis of Warwick District Council offering £30,000 annually which is matched by the Lottery Fund. It also combines the towns Shopfront Scheme of Grants which is described below. With match funding a total of £138,000 therefore is offered annually for the Old Town area. This has operated successfully for the last three years and has made many improvements

within the Conservation Area in this part of Leamington, including works in Clemens Street, High Street, Bath Street and George Street.

Note : The Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme of Grants, although concluding in March 2004, does have a two year run-on period during which time the funds from Heritage Lottery Fund can be distributed/claimed until October 2006.

- (5) The Royal Leamington Spa Old Town Shopfront Scheme of Grants. This operates on the basis of Warwick District Council offering £20,000 and the Advantage West Midlands (Single Regeneration Budget) offering a further £20,000 specific towards the restoration of shopfronts in the Old Town area. This funding has been combined with the District Council's contribution to the Townscape Heritage Initiative for the Old Town area as described above. Many new and improved shopfronts are now having a significant effect on the Old Town Area.

#### Proposals for 2004/5

There is approved funding for £100,000 during 2004/5 for Historic Buildings Grant Schemes.

As there are two of the above grant schemes which will conclude at the end of the current financial year (March 2004), I am proposing a new arrangement of funding for the financial year 2004/2005.

- (1) English Heritage have been approached, with the view of the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants being extended for a further year. It will therefore be necessary for the existing £20,000 contribution towards the fund to be continued for a further year and hopefully will be match funded by £20,000 from English Heritage. In the event of the English Heritage match funding not being available, it is proposed that the District Council's £20,000 be operated on the same terms and conditions as the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants in the same parts of town in order for this scheme to be concluded in the coming financial year. As there are a number of properties which do still need grant aid under the scheme it is felt that it would be advantageous to continue funding for another year either with or without match funding.
- (2) It is proposed that the Historic Buildings Grant Scheme continues at a level of £20,000 annually as this successfully supports and contributes towards the restoration of significant buildings in the rural areas.
- (3) It is proposed that the Warwick Town Scheme of Grants continues at £10,000 annually as this has been successful in the Warwick Conservation Area and is deemed to be sufficient to meet the current needs.
- (4) The Shopfront Scheme of Grants will continue for a further year drawing match funding of £20,000 from Advantage West Midlands.

- (5) The Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme of Grants also concludes in March 2004 and therefore the Council's £30,000 towards this scheme will no longer be required although the Heritage Lottery Fund's contribution can still be drawn now until October 2006.

It is therefore proposed that the £30,000 be reallocated to provide a Conservation Fund of £20,000 annually and a £10,000 Leamington Grant Scheme which can be offered to any listed buildings or significant unlisted buildings within the Leamington Spa Conservation Area.

Warwick District Council operated a Conservation Fund for a number of years up until about 2000 and it is proposed to reintroduce this scheme which would be available under the terms and conditions in the attached appendix. The scheme would enable the Planning Department to offer funding towards enhancement schemes, funding for the Heritage week which has successfully run for the last two years and also for specific works to listed buildings and significant buildings identified within Conservation Areas in the District. In the past this fund has been successfully used for enhancement works at Bubbenhall, for example and also for the initial fencing around the Hill Close Gardens which enabled this very significant project to get started 6 years ago.

Currently £100,000 is made available by the District Council for distribution as Historic Buildings Grant Fund as noted above. It is not proposed that this funding should alter, however, it is proposed that the funding be reallocated as follows:-

Historic Buildings Scheme of Grants	£20,000.00
Warwick Town Grants	£10,000.00
Leamington Spa Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants	£20,000.00
Leamington Spa Shopfront Scheme of Grants (Old Town).	£20,000.00
Warwick District Conservation Fund	£20,000.00
Leamington Spa Scheme of Grants	£10,000.00
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	£100,000.00
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### 3. **POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK**

There will be no changes to the present arrangement offering £100,000 towards Historic Buildings Grant Schemes, however, there will be some changes to the way in which this funding is distributed as set out in the above report.

### 4. **CONCLUSION**

The present grant schemes have been successfully operated in the District over the past year with the conclusion of the District Council's funding towards the THI Scheme a new breakdown is proposed for distributing these valuable funds throughout the District.

## 5. OUTCOMES REQUIRED

That the revised grant arrangements as set out in this report are submitted to the Executive for approval for the financial year 2004/2005, subject in the case of the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants receiving match funding from English Heritage. In the event of this not being available, the Scheme of Grants would proceed on the same basis without match funding.

John Archer  
Head of Planning and Engineering

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants File.  
The Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme of Grants for Leamington Spa File.  
The Royal Leamington Spa Shopfront Scheme of Grants File.  
The Historic Buildings Grant Scheme File.  
The Warwick Town Scheme of Grants File.

**Areas in District Affected:** All

**Executive Portfolio Area and Holder:** Councillor Mrs. Begg

**Scrutiny Committee(s):**

**Key Decision:** No

**For further information about this report please contact:**

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