

 Executive 18th March 2009		Agenda Item No.
Title	Historic Buildings Grants Allocations	
For further information about this report please contact	Alan Mayes, Principal Architect/Planner	
Service Area	Planning	
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	25 th March 2008, minute number 1034	
Background Papers	Grants Working Party Background Paper Report of Grants Working Party Meeting	

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)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	25.02.09	Bill Hunt
Chief Executive	26.02.09	Chris Elliott
CMT	26.02.09	
Section 151 Officer	25.02.09	Mary Hawkins
Legal	25.02.09	Peter Oliver
Finance	25.02.09	Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holder(s)	02.03.09	Councillor J Hammon
Consultation Undertaken		
Meeting of the Grants Working Party.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Executive the findings of the Grants Working Party and to seek approval for the funding allocations for the coming financial year (2009/10) as recommended by the Grants Working Party.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the proposed allocations for Historic Buildings Grants as set out in Appendix A and recommended by the Grants Working Party be approved by the Executive.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Warwick District Council have for many years supported Historic Buildings Grant Aid to help building owners to maintain and/or restore buildings which are a very important part of the attractive environment of Warwick District.
- 3.2 Each year a Grants Working Party comprising four Members (Councillor Mrs A Blacklock, Councillor Mrs J Falp, Councillor M Britland and Councillor J Hatfield) together with the Conservation Officers meet to review the progress of grants over the past year and to discuss and recommend the allocation of grants for the coming year. The Grants Working Party met in January and agreed the allocations as set out in Appendix A to this report, based on the consideration of grant popularity over the past year and the needs for the forthcoming year as described below.

Brief Review of Grants for 2008/9 and Recommendation for 2009/10

- 3.3 Specific grant schemes exist for Leamington Spa and Warwick, and the Historic Buildings Grant Scheme which covers Kenilworth, Whitnash and the rural areas. These schemes have proved particularly popular and it was decided to retain the allocations as in the past year with a £2,000 increase for Warwick. A total of 30 grants have been made in Leamington Spa, 10 in Warwick and 15 in the rural areas over the past year. These have included re-roofing works, re-rendering, re-instatement of traditional windows in place of unsympathetic windows, new railings, re-pointing stonework and stonework replacement to two churches.
- 3.4 A shop front grants scheme was included last year and although this has been less successful it has been decided to continue this scheme with last year's funding, but extend it to include Warwick Road in Kenilworth, where a Design Guide has recently been introduced.
- 3.5 It has been recommended that the funds from the 2008/9 Rural and Urban Enhancement Grants be added to the allocations for 2009/10, to provide more substantial funds for projects which will make significant contributions to rural conservation areas and also the urban conservation areas. Details of these projects are under discussion with Warwickshire County Council and will be put shortly to the parish and town councils involved for their views.
- 3.6 The Conservation Facilitation Fund enabled the highly successful Heritage Open Days Weekend to take place in September 2008 and a similar event is being planned for 2009. Last year 38 venues and properties were open over the Heritage Weekend. Also from this fund the Urban Conservation Area Statements were published and launched and a seminar was arranged with the Heritage Lottery Fund to which a wide variety of representatives from charitable and other bodies

attended to help them in obtaining funding via the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is a useful source of funding for publicising and helping people to understand the historic environment, together with funds for specific projects relating to the historic environment.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to not make specific allocations for the fund, which would not provide a fair process for distributing funds across the district.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 An allocation of £100,000 from the Capital Programme was approved at the last Executive on February 4th 2009 for Historic Building Grants.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The maintenance of the Historic Environment is highlighted in Warwick District Council Local Plan and also forms part of National Guidance in Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (Historic Environment) and the Planning (Listed Buildings in Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It is also consistent with the objectives related to Culture, Environment and Development of the Corporate Strategy. The allocation of the grant aid will also support a number of the strategic aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Historic Buildings Grant Allocations for 2009/10

Leamington Spa Grants	£ 25,000
Warwick Grants	£ 10,000
Historic Buildings Grants	£ 20,000
Conservation Facilitation Fund	£ 15,000
Shop Front Grants	£ 5,000
(plus residue from 2008/9)	
Urban Enhancement Grants	£ 10,000
Rural Enhancement Grants	£ 15,000
Total Allocation	£100,000