

 Executive Report 12 March 2014		Agenda Item No. 9C
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	March Executive 2013	
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 – Ref:
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes/No (If No state why below)

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	18.2.14	Bill Hunt
Head of Service	18.2.14	Tracy Darke
CMT	18.2.14	
Section 151 Officer	18.2.14	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		
Finance	6.2.14	Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holder(s)	18.2.14	Councillor John Hammon
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Meeting of Grants Working Party made up of Councillors Higgins, Blacklock, Dean and Falp, together with Alan Mayes and Roger Cullimore held on the 29 January 2014.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To report to the Executive the enhancement made to the District by the Historic Buildings Grants for 2014/15
- 1.2 To gain approval for the proposed allocation of the 2014/15 budget as shown in Appendix A and paragraph 3 below.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Executive approves the proposed allocations for the Historic Building Grants for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix A .
- 2.2 That the Executive approves the slippage of unspent funds at year end to the grant allocation for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix A

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The overall allocation for grants for 2014/15 have been agreed as £50,000 which is a reduction from £80,000 in 2013/14 . To take account of this reduction and the previous allocations a pro rata allocations have been made for the following schemes
- 3.2 **Leamington Spa Grants** - An allocation of £40,000 (plus slippage of £31,717 for previous commitments) was made to this scheme last year and to-date 38 offers have been made (including those carried forward) and all funds have been allocated . The slippage indicated in Appendix A has all been allocated as grant offers during 2013/14.
 - 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 £3,000 per property. It is recommended that the figure of £20,000 be allocated for the coming year(a reduction of 50% from the previous year) .
- 3.3 **Warwick Town Grants** – A total allocation of £20,000 was made last year for the Warwick Grant Scheme which included £10,000 slippage. To-date 9 offers have been committed from this Scheme and funds are now fully allocated.
 - 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. For the past three years the annual expenditure has been £18,000/£20,000. It is therefore recommended that the allocation for 2014/15 should be £15,000(a reduction of 25% from the previous year).
- 3.4 **Historic Buildings Grant Scheme** – A total allocation of £22,000 was made for last year which included £2,000 slippage. To-date 15 offers have been committed and funds are fully allocated.
 - 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 that are not eligible for grant aid from the Leamington or Warwick grant schemes . Grant aid is allocated on the basis of 25% of the cost of the works to a maximum of £3000. As the expenditure for the past two years has been

£16,000/£18,000 it is recommended that an allocation of £15,000 should be made available for 2014/15 (a reduction of 25 % from the previous year)

3.5 Other Grant Schemes:

- 3.5.1 **Shop Fronts Grant Scheme** -£800 was carried forward from 2013/14. This was allocated in conjunction with a Leamington Spa Grant. It was agreed last year that this scheme would be discontinued once existing funds were allocated.
- 3.5.2 **Kenilworth Abbey Grant Scheme** - £20,608 was carried forward last year. Works have now commenced on the Abbey Gatehouse and funds have been transferred to Warwick District Council Property Section to fund this work which is monitored by the conservation team.
- 3.5.3 **Conservation Facilitation Funds** –£5,000 was carried forward last year of which £1,813 has been paid out to fund Heritage Open Days 2013 which resulted in a very successful weekend in September with 53 venues taking part. It is proposed the remainder of this fund be carried forward and used to fund Heritage Open Days 2014.
- 3.5.4 **Environmental Grant Scheme** – This Scheme was created using £10,000 unallocated funds from the Historic Buildings slipped in 2013/14 to form a new grant scheme which would be available for both Urban and Rural Enhancement projects that are within the public realm or accessible to the public .
- 3.5.5 This Scheme has been used to fund new lampposts in the rural Conservation Area, a Heritage signpost in Norton Lindsey, clock face restoration at St. Paul's Church, Leamington and works at Bagots Castle. To date there is £3,500 unallocated which it is proposed to slip forward for use in 2014/15.

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 Planning Policy's framework objectives to maintain assets in the Historic Environment. The grants have and will continue to contribute to the strategic aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy to protect and enhance the built and natural environment .

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The capital programme approved as part of the 2014/15 Budget Setting Report (February 2014) included Historic Building grant of £50,000 per annum for each of 2014/15 to 2016/17. The proposed allocations are therefore within the current budgetary framework.

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 for both residents of the District and visitors to the District.

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 that 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 The contribution of grant aid helps to stimulate high quality restoration which also contributes towards the economy of the area by encouraging traditional skills tourism. It helps to maintain our impressive stock of historic assets for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to Warwick district.
- 7.3 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 an absolute maximum of £3,000 per property (£2,000 per property being the general ceiling figure). For the current year a total of £123,000 was allocated and has been paid or is awaiting payment – as this represents 25% of the cost of each piece of work this has enabled approximately £492,000 of works to precede. As certain grants do not cover a full 25% the actual level of enabled work is higher.
- 7.4 A Grants Working Party comprising of four Elected Members together with Conservation Officers met on 29th January 2014 to review the allocation of grants over the past year and to discuss and recommend the allocations for the coming financial year. Members of the Grants Working Party expressed their support for the maintenance of the Grants Schemes and the contribution it makes towards cultural tourism to the area and for the residents of Warwick district.
- 7.5 The contribution made to the Conservation Area, the Historic Environment as a whole and to individual Listed Buildings is monitored by the Council's Officers when offering grants and making inspections of grant works, to ensure that funds are being used beneficially for the individual property and for the wider Conservation Area as a whole.
- 7.6 The principal of grant aid is to meet the additional cost of materials required for historic building work. In line with national guidance the grants are not means tested but offered for the purpose of maintaining the building and enabling work that would otherwise not proceed. Without the facility to offer grant aid it is most likely that buildings would remain in a state of disrepair or inferior works would be carried out to our important stock of historic buildings. There would also be no incentive to encourage historic building owners to replace unsympathetic works which were carried out in the past.
- 7.7 The availability of grant aid is publicised on the Council's website and through other appropriate channels.

**Historic Building Grants 2014/15
Allocations including slippage and codes**

This table is based on a 2014/15 budget book allocation of £50,000.00 for Historic Building Grants from capital funding.

Table 1

2013/14 Allocation	Grant	2014/2015 Allocation	Slippage
£40,000	Royal Leamington Spa Town Grants	£20,000	£10,000 slippage for grants allocated in 2013/14
£20,000	Warwick Town Grants	£15,000	
£20,000	Historic Buildings Grants	£15,000	£2000
£5,000 (slippage)	Conservation Facilitation Fund (to be transferred to Revenue)		£3,000 (Ring-fenced for Heritage Open Days)
£10,000 (slippage)	Environmental Enhancement		£3,000
£20,608 (slippage)	Kenilworth Abbey Fund	Existing funds transferred to works currently underway .	
	Totals	£50,000	£ 18,000