



## ***PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE***

### **INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING**

### **TOPIC – GRANTS UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS ACT) 1990**

#### **PROCEDURAL INFORMATION**

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the City Secretary and Solicitor, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and all Members of the relevant Performance Improvement Committee.

Five or more of these consulted Members can require that the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

#### **Contact Officers:**

**Case Officer:** Richard MacCullagh

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#### **Committee Administrator:**

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#### **SUMMARY**

This report recommends the allocation of funding from the Historic Building Grant budget for two projects. The proposed grant offers exceed the amount which is delegated to the Director of Development Services and therefore requires Portfolio Holder approval.

The proposed grants will protect and enhance the historic built environment.

#### **DECISION**

It is recommended that the following grants be awarded from the Historic Building Grant Scheme.

1. That an offer of up to £8,459 (20%) be made on eligible repairs to the Grade I listed St Cross Hospital, Winchester.

2. That an offer of up to £8,833 (30%) be made on eligible works to reinstate cast iron railings to 5, 6, 7 and 8 Eastgate Street, Winchester (Grade II listed).

### **REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The proposals meet the criteria of the Council's Historic Building Grant Scheme.

The St Cross grant offer covers essential repair works to the roof, masonry, windows and storm drainage of the Ambulatory building and repairs to the tile capped Brother's walled garden. The works will be undertaken by skilled craftsmen and supervised by a Conservation Architect. The works will preserve the character of one of the District's finest Grade I listed buildings which is also located within the Winchester Conservation Area. Unfortunately, grants are no longer available from Hampshire County Council.

The Eastgate Street grant offer is for the reinstatement of cast iron railings to closely match the original railings, which were unfortunately removed in 1940/41 and used towards the war effort. Hampshire County Council and the City of Winchester Trust have also agreed to support the works. The Council owns the leasehold on the 4 properties (i.e. responsible for repairs) and a separate grant offer will be made to the owner of 4 Eastgate Street. The reinstatement of the railings will greatly improve the setting of these distinctive Grade II listed buildings and enhance the character of this part of the conservation area. Housing and Property Services have insufficient funds to undertake the works.

### **FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

To do nothing: since the railings have not been there for 60 years the Council should state why this option has been rejected.

In response:

- The purpose of the Historic Building Grant scheme is to provide funding which conserves our District's architectural heritage.
- The Council has a duty under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to produce proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas.
- The Winchester Conservation Area Project, 2003, highlights the potential to enhance the character of the conservation area by encouraging the repair of historic boundary walls and reinstatement of iron railings.
- A Report to the Planning and Transportation Review Committee (PTP178) in October 2001 set out the case for proactive targeting of grant-aid at buildings at risk and for reinstating architectural ironwork in Winchester Conservation Area.
- The reinstatement of the railings at Eastgate Street has been a long term goal hence the combination of funding from different sources.
- This exemplar project will encourage enhancement works elsewhere in Winchester Conservation Area and provide good publicity for the Council.

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED**

Councillor Beveridge declared a personal, but not prejudicial interest as a member of the City of Winchester Trust.

**DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

None

**Approved by: (signature)**

**Date of Decision**

**Councillor John Beveridge – Portfolio Holder for Planning**