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DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

PROPOSED 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 Scrutiny Panel.

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

If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Committee Administrator by 5.00pm on Thursday 1 December 2005.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Richard MacCullagh
Tel: 01962 848 527 Email: rmaccullagh@winchester.gov.uk

Committee Administrator: Nancy Howarth 01962 848 235,
nhowarth@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

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

The grant will protect and enhance the historic built environment.

PROPOSED DECISION

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

1. That an offer of up to £9,661 (17.5 %) be made on eligible repairs to the Grade II listed St James Church, Hunton.

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

The proposed repairs meet the criteria of the Council's Historic Building Grant (HBG) Scheme and the St James' Church offer will be subject to a public access condition.

The **St James' Church, Hunton**, grant offer covers essential repairs to roof, rainwater goods, tower cross, brickwork, stonework, glazing, internal plasterwork and limewash, repairs to an internal C15 tomb and construction of a French drain. The works will be undertaken by skilled craftsmen and supervised by a Conservation Architect. The works will preserve the character of this attractive C13 church which is an important landmark building on the Dever Valley and provides a religious and social function for the rural hamlet of Hunton. The building is located within Hunton Conservation Area and its churchyard enjoys a riverside setting.

An estimate puts the cost of repairs at £63,692 of which approximately £8,486 is recoverable VAT. While the Council can grant-aid the repairs at 20%, a grant offer of £9,661 (17.5%) will leave approximately £4,500 for further grant-aiding churches this financial year.

English Heritage has provided a preliminary grant for investigative works and it is anticipated that they will provide additional funding towards the total cost of the repairs. A grant of £4,000 has been offered by the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust and £4,850 from other sources including Hampshire County Council. The Stoke Charity with Hunton PCC aim to raise the shortfall by local fundraising; however this is proving a challenge given its small population.

To adopt a 'do nothing' approach would delay or abort essential repairs and this is likely to lead to deterioration of historic fabric with potential damage to the special interest of the listed building. The ground beneath one of the brick buttresses has collapsed into an adjoining tomb during the last 18 months, so it is essential to commence the works before further damage is done. The works are expected to start in Spring 2006.

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

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

na

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

na

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision

Councillor John Beveridge – Portfolio Holder for Planning