

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – JOBS, ECONOMY AND
TRANSPORT**

5 August 2014

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT GRANTS BUDGET

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to allocate the Historic Environment Grants Budget and to highlight possible future heritage grant schemes.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The available budget for Derbyshire County Council Historic Environment Grants for 2014/15 is £56,022.

Derbyshire County Council has used its Historic Environment Grants Budget to lever in funding into the County to protect and enhance the built historic environment. Schemes typically involve the repair and enhancement of historic buildings. This includes appropriate traditional repairs, often using local materials. It can also include the reinstatement of lost architectural features where there is good evidence. These schemes help protect and enhance the distinct character of Derbyshire's built heritage. This is of increased importance with the growth of the tourism sector as part of Derbyshire's economy. The schemes help promote and utilise traditional building skills. Extensively, this results in the employment of local tradespeople to undertake the work. The outcomes help by contributing to the regeneration of areas to create attractive places where people want to live, work, visit and invest.

The Allocation Proposal for 2014-2015

i) Conservation Area Partnership Schemes

Unfortunately, all of the partnership schemes that were half or part funded by English Heritage (EH) have now come to an end within Derbyshire. While EH is still contributing to Conservation Area Partnership Schemes, the Conservation areas need to be on its Heritage at Risk Register. Currently, only two Conservation areas in Derbyshire are on the Heritage at Risk Register – Clay Cross and Eckington.

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North East Derbyshire District Council has been contacted to see if there is any potential to develop an EH Conservation Area Partnership Scheme in Clay Cross and/or Eckington.

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site – Cromford, Belper and Milford

The partnership scheme EH contributed towards in the Derwent Valley, covering Cromford, Belper and Milford, has now ended. The scheme ran for two three year periods and was extended for a further year at the end of the second scheme to run for a total of 7 years. As mentioned previously, EH is no longer able to fund schemes that are not on its Heritage at Risk Register. However, a desire has been expressed by the other contributors of the former partnership scheme to continue a Derwent Valley Conservation Area Partnership Scheme, without EH, for at least an additional year, 2014-15.

Last year's allocation, 2013-14, saw a reduction in the level of funding available from all partners giving a total budget of £42,000. This comprised of £21,000 from EH matched by £10,500 from Derbyshire County Council, £5,500 from Derbyshire Dales District Council, £3,500 from Amber Valley Borough Council and £1,500 from Belper Town Council.

Partners, excluding EH, have confirmed that they would like to provide the same level of funding over the next year and if Derbyshire County Council was to also contribute the same amount as last year. This would give a total budget of £21,000.

While this is a reduction, it is still sufficient to keep the momentum of the scheme going whilst other funding options are being explored with partners, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). There is still a considerable amount of work that can be undertaken in these areas of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

The Swadlincote Partnership Scheme

In order to continue the programme of improvement works within Swadlincote Conservation Area, South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) officers are working towards securing a Townscape Heritage (TH) grant from the HLF, discussed in-full later in this report. However, in the meantime, SDDC and Derbyshire County Council officers are keen to build on the momentum created through the previous partnership grant schemes and so it is proposed that the County Council enters into a historic areas grant scheme with SDDC. SDDC has approval to allocate the District's entire Historic Environment Grants budget of £10,000 to Swadlincote, for 2014-15. It is proposed that Derbyshire County Council match this funding of £10,000 to give a total funding budget of £20,000. It is considered that this level of funding will be sufficient to maintain the momentum of the previous grant scheme.

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ii) Archaeological Grants

The County Council runs an Archaeological Grant Scheme. The funding for this scheme has historically formed part of the overall Historic Environment Grants Budget. The money is used for two main areas:

- Supporting publications that promote archaeological work undertaken in Derbyshire.
- Supporting archaeological fieldwork and research in Derbyshire.

It is proposed to allocate £10,000 from the Historic Environment Grants Budget for Archaeological Grants. This maintains the same level of funding as in previous years.

From this £10,000, Derbyshire County Council usually contributes to half of the costs of the Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire (ACID) publication, which showcases archaeology and conservation work across Derbyshire, and is a free publication that is widely distributed across the County, including to all secondary schools and is available from Derbyshire County Council Libraries, the Countryside Service Visitor Centres and Derbyshire museums. The other half of the publication cost is funded by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA).

Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee (DAAC) coordinates the publication of ACID and has received a quote for this year's design and printing of £4,762. As DAAC has a financial surplus from last year, it is going to contribute this (£1,102) to the publishing of ACID. This leaves Derbyshire County Council and PDNPA to contribute £1,830 each. This figure is down on Derbyshire County Council's and PDNPA's contribution of £2,818 last year.

iii) Summary of 2014-15 Historic Environment Grants Budget

| Conservation Areas | Derbyshire County Council's Annual Contribution (£) | Other Contributions | | Total Grant Budget (£) |
|---|---|---------------------|---|------------------------|
| | | Districts (£) | Heritage Lottery Fund/ English Heritage (£) | |
| Derwent Valley | 10,500 | *10,500 | 0 | 21,000 |
| Swadlincote | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 | 20,000 |
| Sub-Totals | 20,500 | 20,500 | 0 | 41,000 |
| Archaeology grants | 10,000 | | | |
| Totals | 30,500 | 20,500 | 0 | 41,000 |
| Unallocated Derbyshire County Council balance | 25,522 | | | |

* Includes £1,500 from Belper Town Council.

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With regards to the unallocated balance, it is anticipated that discussions with the District and Borough Councils, and Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, will identify projects that will help address some of the County's Buildings at Risk issues. Officers from the Conservation and Design Section are currently working towards a stage one Heritage Grant application for a Heritage at Risk survey project in which it is hoped to identify potential future projects.

The County's historic buildings, sites and landscapes are of fundamental importance to establishing community identities and to creating a sense of place. By encouraging tourism, creating jobs and providing the places where most of us live and work, our heritage is also an important contributor to growth and prosperity within the County and the nation. By providing modest financial support in the early stages of potential projects, such as feasibility studies or condition surveys for example, it is hoped that the County can both contribute to, and benefit from, the vital role that the cultural and built heritage plays within a sustainable and productive economy.

A further report will be brought to a future meeting to seek approval for some, or all, of the unallocated balance as discussions on collaborative working with partners develop.

Possible Future Historic Environment Grant Schemes

In spite of a reduction in the scope of funding from EH and limited resources from the district and borough councils, the Conservation and Design Section is keen to ensure that the relatively new funding opportunities from the HLF are taken advantage of.

Two District Councils are developing stage-two submissions, with assistance from Derbyshire County Council officers to the HLF:

HLF Heritage Grant Schemes

New Bolsover Model Village

This scheme aims to carry out essential repairs to the 206 dwellings built by the Colliery Company to house its workers and to upgrade their thermal efficiency without impacting on the special historic character.

A stage one application was submitted to the HLF and notification that this had been successful was provided on 11 March 2014. Bolsover District Council (BDC) has been awarded £68,500 by the HLF (the total development phase is estimated at £83,402) to develop the scheme to a full stage 2 submission. BDC has confirmed that it hopes to have stage-two approval by June 2015.

It is intended that the project will run for three years (2015-18) and the most current estimate is that the total cost of the work will be in the region of £5.5m

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with a HLF grant of £1.7m. The balance of the funding will be made up from the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme, together with match funding from energy companies and other partners. The details of the scheme and final costs will be developed as part of the stage-two application.

Subject to Cabinet Member approval, BDC is seeking a £40,000 contribution in total, towards the project from Derbyshire County Council over a three year period. This equates to £13,333.33 annually for the financial years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

In the meantime, BDC requires a letter of financial support in principle to accompany the stage-two application.

HLF Townscape Heritage Schemes

Swadlincote

Swadlincote Conservation Area Townscape Heritage scheme now has stage one approval. SDDC received a letter from the HLF, dated 14 February 2014, to confirm stage one success. Very positive feedback was also provided in a stage two development meeting held at the HLF East Midlands regional office at the end of April 2014.

The development of a stage two application to the HLF is now underway with assistance provided by Derbyshire County Council officers. A shortlist of target buildings in the Conservation area for grant funding, as well as identifying small scale public realm projects that contribute to the overall public realm masterplan to support investment in the town, is now being established.

Once these elements of work are finalised, the scale of the funding bid can be established. The current estimated total delivery cost for the project is £464,976. This figure comprises of an 89% HLF delivery grant request of £413,976. Subject to the necessary Cabinet Member approval, the remaining balance will be made up from contributions from the County Council and SDDC. It is hoped that the scheme will start in 2015 and run for three years with a total contribution of £30,000 from Derbyshire County Council and £21,000 from SDDC. SDDC requires a letter of financial support in principle, confirming a three year contribution of £10,000 per annum from Derbyshire County Council, subject to Cabinet Member approval, to allow the HLF bid to progress.

(3) Financial Considerations Provision exists within the Conservation and Design Section's Historic Environment Grants Budget for 2014-2015 to allocate up to £56,022.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity,

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human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details - Adam Lathbury, extension 39791.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member approves:

7.1 The allocation of £10,500 towards the Derwent Valley Mills Conservation Area Partnership Scheme for 2014-15.

7.2 The allocation of £10,000 towards a Conservation Area Partnership Scheme in Swadlincote between Derbyshire County Council and South Derbyshire District Council for 2014-15.

7.3 The allocation of £10,000 towards Archaeological Grants for 2013-14

7.4 A £1,830 contribution towards the printing and publication costs of Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire, subject to 7.3 being approved.

7.5 The issue of a letter of financial support in principle to Bolsover District Council for £40,000 over three years, beginning 2015/16, to support its stage two bid the Heritage Lottery Fund.

7.6 The issue of a letter of financial support in principle to South Derbyshire District Council for a £10,000 annual allocation for three years, beginning 2015/16, towards the Swadlincote Townscape Heritage scheme to support its stage two bid the Heritage Lottery Fund.

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