

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

**SUBJECT:
CONSERVATION AREA GRANT FUNDING**

Purpose of Report

To determine the method for receiving information concerning the distribution of Conservation Area grant funding.

Introduction/Background

For many years the National Park Authority, in conjunction with Cadw, has grant funded external restoration projects to pre-1939 buildings situated within the Authority's fourteen Conservation Areas. The Authority's contribution has match funded that of Cadw, although the level of funding has decreased in recent years.

Current situation

Applications are invited for projects, which are then considered by a Cadw representative and the Authority's Building Conservation Officer. Since 2008, details of all applications received and the way in which the funding is distributed has been reported to a Conservation Area Grants Panel, which comprises three Members. This Panel has no authority to determine the allocation of funding, but merely to receive information on applications received. The Terms of Reference of the Panel is appended to this report for information.

Until very recently, it was not clear whether Cadw would be funding the grants scheme this year, therefore the appointment of a Grants Panel was not considered necessary. However, funding of £50,000 has now become available which, when combined with match funding from the Authority, makes a total of £100,000 available for distribution. Applications for funding have therefore been invited and the officers are currently considering all projects received.

Options

Bearing in mind that the Panel has no decision-making powers, and in view of the recent establishment of the Conservation and Planning Review Committee, the question arises as to whether a Panel is now considered necessary to receive this information.

The options available to the Authority are:

1. that the Conservation Area Grants Panel is retained, or
2. that the Conservation Area Grants Panel is disbanded and the details reported to the Conservation and Planning Review Committee.

Obviously, it also has to be borne in mind that funding from Cadw – and, consequently, match funding from the Authority – might not be forthcoming in future years, which would result in the Panel being disbanded anyway.

Financial considerations

None – the Authority's contribution to the Conservation Area Grants scheme had already been earmarked in the budget.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to determine the method for receiving information concerning the distribution of Conservation Area grant funding. If Option 1 is agreed, then Members will be required to elect three Members to sit on the Panel.

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Consultees: Chief Executive

Background Documents

None

(For further information, please contact Janet Evans, Administration & Democratic Services Manager on extension 4834 or by e-mailing janete@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

CONSERVATION AREA GRANTS PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMPOSITION

- The Panel will consist of three Members appointed by the Authority, representative of the two appointing constituencies, together with the Authority's Building Conservation Officer.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To receive an information report outlining applications for Conservation Area grant funding.
- To receive a schedule of Conservation Area grants awarded for the previous year.
- To review any changes in procedure and protocol.

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

- The Panel will meet annually, as soon as is practicable after the deadline for submissions for Conservation Area grant funding has closed.
- Notice of the meeting will be circulated 5 clear working days in advance.