



## Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

Report of: Simon Roper-Pressdee  
(Conservation Officer)  
Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
Open

## Bridge Street Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas – Grant Applications

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 To inform Members of two applications for grant funding under the Bridge Street Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas, and to seek support for their approval.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Conservation Areas are designated by Local Authorities under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, and comprise “areas of special architectural and/or historic interest the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.”
- 2.2 The Heritage Objectives contained within the Adopted Wyre Forest District Local Plan are to preserve and enhance conservation areas, and the District’s Listed Buildings, to safeguard the particular characteristics of the District’s urban and rural environments and to promote appropriate development which secures the beneficial re-use of historic buildings and environments. Further to this, the Adopted Local Plan states that the District and County Councils will undertake such schemes as resources permit
- 2.3 In 2007, English Heritage approved a three-year grant scheme, the Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas (PSiCA), to assist in the regeneration of Bridge Street in Stourport, through providing grants for repair and reinstatement of architectural detail to historic buildings within the Bridge Street area, including the junction with New Street, York Street and High Street. English heritage have allocated £58,000 for this financial year, match-funded by the District Council.
- 2.4 Two levels of grant funding are available through this scheme. Firstly, the repair of the built fabric, such as roof repairs, which attracts a grant rate of 60%; and secondly the reinstatement of

## **Agenda Item No. 7**

architectural detail, including the replacement of shop-fronts with historic style shop-fronts, and the replacement of modern fake sash windows with proper weighted sash windows, which attracts a grant rate of 80%.

- 2.5 In a report to Cabinet on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007, a protocol for approving grants under the Bridge Street Scheme was approved (Appendix 1).

### **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 In order to be able to assess grant applications, bid details with a recommendation by the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services are forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration on a summary sheet. Applications are also considered by the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. The Recommendation of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee will inform the decision of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration.
- 3.2 The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration has delegated authority from Cabinet to make decisions on the allocation of financial support for grants under the PSiCA, following the consideration of the Committee's recommendation. Should the Cabinet Member disagree with the Committee's recommendation, the matter will be referred to the Cabinet for a decision.
- 3.3 Two complete grant applications have been submitted under the PSiCA for works to 7 York Street and 20 Bridge Street, Stourport-on-Severn. Appendix 2 shows the proposed works, the estimated costs, the recommended grant rate and the total amount of grant proposed.
- 3.4 The application for 7 York Street is a comprehensive scheme, seeking the replacement of the Upvc windows and rainwater goods and the replacement of the existing modern shop-front with a more traditional styled shop-front. The total cost of the scheme is £17,661.00, and all the works are considered to qualify for architectural reinstatement at a grant rate of 80%. Therefore it is proposed that a grant of £14,128.80 is offered.
- 3.5 The application for 20 Bridge Street seeks the replacement of the existing windows, with direct replacements. The total cost of these works is £1,049.36 and they qualify for the repair grants at a rate of 60%. It is therefore proposed that a grant of £629.62 is offered.

**4. Options**

- 4.1 Officers are of the opinion that there are two potential courses of action that could be recommended to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration to agree, as set out below.
- 4.2 The first course of action is to agree to support the proposed grants.
- 4.3 The second course of action is to not support the proposed grants.

**5. Consultation**

- 5.1 No consultation has taken place on these proposals for grants.

**6. Related Decisions**

- 6.1 The protocol in Appendix 1 for approving grants was approved by Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

**7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies**

- 7.1 The Bridge Street Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas is in line with the key Heritage aim of the Adopted Local Plan “to safeguard and enhance the distinctive historic environment of the District”.

**8. Implications**

- 8.1 Funding for any approved grants will arise from a 50/50 split between English Heritage Capital funding and the Conservation budget within the approved Capital Programme.
- 8.2 There are no Equality implications.
- 8.3 There are no Partnership Working implications.
- 8.4 There are no Human Rights implications.
- 8.5 There are no E-government implications.
- 8.6 There are no Best Value implications.

**9. Wards affected**

- 9.1 The Bridge Street Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas lies within the Ward of Mitton.

**10. Appendices**

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Protocol for Approving grants under the Partnership in Conservation Areas Scheme.
- 10.2 Appendix 2 – Proposed works and grant rates applied for under Bridge Street Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas.

**11. Background Papers**

- 11.1 There are no background papers.

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