



# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

## 9 December 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Queen Street Gateway Townscape Heritage Project	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	St. Peter's	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Planning	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Ian Holliday Tel Email	Section Leader 01902 555630 ian.holliday@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>		

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity in consultation with the Strategic Director of Education and Enterprise to approve the terms and conditions to be applied to grants to property owners.

### Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to note:

1. On 11 September 2013 Cabinet (Resources) Panel approved the use of £250,000 from the City Centre capital budget to match fund a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

2. Subject to a successful round 2 bid, the Queen Street Townscape Heritage Project Officer post will be extended for the duration of the project and a Queen Street Townscape Heritage Community Project Officer will be appointed on a part time basis for two years.
  
3. The Constitution delegate's authority to the Strategic Director of Education and Enterprise to administer heritage grants, including the making of grant offers and authorisation of grant payments made pursuant to such offers, in accordance with codes of practice and terms and conditions for grants as determined by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel.

## 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet (Resources) Panel of progress made towards submitting a round 2 grant to the Heritage Lottery Fund. As well as to seek delegated authority for the Portfolio Holder (in consultation with the Strategic Director of Education and Enterprise) to approve the terms and conditions to be applied to grants to property owners.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 11th September 2013 Cabinet (Resources) Panel approved the use of £250,000 from the City Centre capital budget to match fund a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Townscape Heritage project based on the eastern part of Queen Street, between Pipers Row and Princess Street.
- 2.2 Queen Street is a major route from the Interchange to the City Centre shopping core. The Queen Street Gateway Townscape Heritage Project is an integral part of the City Centre Regeneration Programme. It links in with the Interchange redevelopment and the Queen Street streetscape improvements. The works funded through the project will support the sustainable future use of an area of the City's townscape that contributes to its unique and distinctive attributes.
- 2.3 Townscape Heritage applications go through a two stage process. The first round pass was confirmed by the HLF on 12 February and it has set aside £904,100 for the scheme, £40,000 of which was made available to support the Council in the preparation of a detailed delivery plan for the second round submission. This £40,000 was matched by £10,000 from the Council. Consultants have been appointed and a Queen Street Townscape Heritage Project Officer has been appointed on a temporary contract to coordinate the second round application, which will be submitted in mid February 2015.
- 2.4 Approval of the second round submission will result in a further £864,100 being released to implement the scheme over a five year period. This will be matched by £250,000 from the Council.
- 2.5 The Queen Street Gateway Townscape Heritage Project would provide grants for structural repairs, restoration and improvements to historic buildings. A series of complimentary activities would include training in property maintenance and energy efficiency for historic buildings; a community research project into the history of the street, its buildings and people; walks, talks and exhibitions; and development of a smartphone app to promote the area.
- 2.6 Prior to the round two application, the HLF requires that the Council has the necessary delegations in place to ensure that the delivery phase is not delayed. The Constitution delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Education and Enterprise to administer heritage grants, including the making of grant offers and authorisation of grant payments made pursuant to such offers, in accordance with codes of practice and terms and conditions for grants as determined by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel.

- 2.7 The HLF require that grants are made subject to terms and conditions that they have approved. These are being drafted in accordance with HLF guidelines for submission to the HLF for approval. Delegated authority is sought for the Portfolio Holder (in consultation with the Strategic Director of Education and Enterprise) to then approve the (HLF approved) terms and conditions. It is anticipated that the HLF approved terms and conditions will be entirely reasonable and acceptable. In the unlikely event that they are not, the matter will be reported back to the Cabinet (Resources) Panel.
- 2.8 The total budget would include provision for the contract extension of the Queen Street Townscape Heritage Project Officer post for the duration of the project and the appointment of a Queen Street Townscape Heritage Community Project Officer, on a part time basis for two years, to coordinate the complimentary activities described above, in paragraph 2.5.

### **3.0 Financial implications**

- 3.1 If the round two application is successful, the HLF will release a further £864,100, to be matched by £250,000 from the City Centre capital budget, to provide a total project budget of £1,114,100.

[ES/17112014/W]

### **4.0 Legal implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

[LD/181114/A]

### **5.0 Equalities implications**

- 5.1 Stage one equalities analysis has been undertaken and there are no significant equalities issues arising from this report or the project. Grant aid for enhancement of business premises may provide opportunities to improve access to buildings and services, subject to consideration of statutory obligations in respect of the preservation of listed buildings. Where planning and building regulations applications are required access issues will be given full consideration.
- 5.2 Consideration will be given to the requirement to make any training activities and promotional material available in formats that will not discriminate against those with disabilities wherever possible. Every effort will be made to ensure that involvement in community activities will be inclusive.

## **6.0 Human resources implications**

- 6.1 Delivery of the HLF approved Detailed Scheme Plan for the project would require the extension of the Queen Street Townscape Heritage Project Officer post for the duration of the project and the appointment of a Queen Street Townscape Heritage Community Project Officer, on a part time basis for two years. Any recruitment will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's HR Procedures.

## **7.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 7.1 The City Council own the property at 22 Queen Street, which is proposed to be included in the project as a Reserve Priority building, where grant assistance might be made available in the latter part of the five year period should there be a shortfall in the distribution of grant monies to higher priority buildings. However, in the event of the sale of a property within 10 years of the completion of grant aided works, the grant monies are required to be repaid on the basis of a sliding scale, from 100% for the first 5 years to 0% at the end of 10 years.

## **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 8.1 Report to Cabinet (Resources) Panel 11 September 2013: Capital resources for City Centre & Bilston regeneration priorities. (EXEMPT)
- 8.2 Report to Cabinet (Resources) Panel 11 March 2014: Queen Street Gateway Enhancement Townscape Heritage