



Cabinet (Resources) Panel

11 March 2014

Report title	Queen Street Gateway Enhancement Townscape Heritage	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	St Peter's	
Accountable director	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
Originating service	Planning	
Accountable employee(s)	Sue Whitehouse	Historic Environment Officer
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Report has been considered by	City Centre Regeneration Programme Board	14 February 2014

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve the allocation of £10,000 from the revenue budget to match fund the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to support the preparation of the second round submission for the Queen Street Gateway Enhancement Townscape Heritage scheme.
2. Authorise delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity and Regeneration, in consultation with the Strategic Director, Education and Enterprise, to approve any actions necessary within the project budget limitations to secure the delivery of the second round submission.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to:

1. Note the successful award of a first round pass by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the likelihood of securing further second round funding for the delivery stage of the Queen Street Gateway Townscape Heritage scheme.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the first round pass and award of grant up to £40,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Queen Street Gateway Enhancement Townscape Heritage Scheme.
- 1.2 To seek the necessary match funding and authorisations to develop the second round submission in order to secure funding for the delivery stage of the project.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A successful application has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under their Townscape Heritage funding programme, for a scheme based on the eastern part of Queen Street, between Pipers Row and Princess Street, in the Wolverhampton City Centre Conservation Area. The Townscape Heritage programme provides funding to regenerate economically disadvantaged historic areas that must be designated as conservation areas. Queen Street contains an important concentration of important historic buildings many of which are in poor condition. It also plays a strategic role in the Council's regeneration strategy for the City Centre and in particular will support the City's Interchange scheme, improving the built environment along an important pedestrian route from the bus and rail stations, through to the main retail shopping area.
- 2.2 Cabinet (Resources) Panel received a report of 11 September 2013 which endorsed the submission of an application to the HLF for the Queen Street Townscape Heritage Enhancement Scheme. It was agreed that should the first round submission be successful then a further report seeking confirmation of match funding of £10,000 for the development stage of the scheme would be submitted for approval.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 Townscape Heritage applications go through a two stage process. The first round pass was confirmed by the HLF on 12 February and means that a total of £904,100 has been set aside by them for the scheme, of which £40,000 of development funding becomes available immediately to support the Council in the preparation of a detailed delivery plan for the second round submission. The Council must match this award with an additional £10,000 from the revenue budget. Once the detailed second round submission has been approved by the HLF, the further £864,100 will be released to implement the scheme over a five year period. A further progress report will be submitted to Cabinet at this stage.
- 3.2 The Queen Street Gateway Enhancement Townscape Heritage Scheme will provide grants for structural repairs, restoration and improvements to historic buildings, many of which are listed. A series of complimentary activities will 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. The programme will be delivered

over a five year period in partnership with WVOne and the Wolverhampton Civic and Historical Society; the Council being the lead partner.

- 3.3 In order to progress the second round delivery plan, approval is required to appoint consultants to assist the Council with specialist aspects of the work, including input from conservation architects and advice on the complimentary activity plan. These are skills not available in-house. A temporary full time project officer will also need to be appointed to co-ordinate the detailed second round submission and to liaise with the HLF, potential grantees and community volunteers. This approach is endorsed by the HLF because of the amount of work required, and funding is included in the development grant. It is proposed that responsibility for any decisions required to achieve the submission of the second round submission to the HLF is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity, in consultation with the Strategic Director, Education and Enterprise.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The HLF has made a first round grant offer of up to £40,000 which will be matched by £10,000 of Council revenue funds to provide a total project development budget of £50,000. The grant is paid in three instalments with 50% being paid as soon as formal permission to start has been signed off by HLF. . The matched contribution of £10,000 can be met from the city centre reserve. [MF/21022014/M]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Save that it should be noted that the Council must comply with the HLF terms of grant. The Council must also address any issues identified by the HLF in the course of monitoring, and follow the requirements specified in the Townscape Heritage Application guidance. Any further legal issues arising from the delivery stage of the project will be addressed at the appropriate time. [JH/24022014/Q]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 Stage One equalities analysis has been undertaken and there are no significant equalities issues arising from this report or the project. Grant aid to 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.
- 6.2 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.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 The Queen Street Gateway Enhancement Townscape Heritage will bring significant enhancement to historic buildings, many of which are statutorily listed, located within the Wolverhampton City Centre Conservation Area. Improvement to the visual amenity and raising the profile of this key gateway into the City Centre will also attract customers, visitors and new job opportunities to an area that is currently underutilised and physically run down.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 Delivery of the detailed delivery plan for the project to secure further significant funding for the implementation stage will require the appointment of a full time experienced project officer for a period of six months. The post will be funded through the project development budget.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Report to Cabinet Resources Panel 11 September 2013: Capital resources for City Centre & Bilston regeneration priorities. (EXEMPT)
- 9.2 Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage Application Guidance. December 2013 (www.hlf.org.uk)