
REPORT TO:	Development Control Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	14th August 2001	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Deputy Chief Executive	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Marilyn Hallard, Design and Conservation Officer, x5747	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Swadlincote Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme	REF: 13.3.18.3
WARD AFFECTED:	Swadlincote	TERMS OF REFERENCE: DS3

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That a sub committee be set up for determining Swadlincote Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) grant applications.

1.2 That members appoint elected and co-opted members and agree the terms of reference of the sub committee

2.0 Purpose of Report

To establish a time limited sub committee to consider grant applications for the Swadlincote HERS.

3.0 Detail

3.1 At its meeting on 19th April 2001 the Planning and Economic Development Committee retrospectively approved the submission of a bid to English Heritage for a Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme for Swadlincote Conservation Area. The bid took the form of an 'Implementation Programme' which set out the importance of the conservation area, defined its conservation problems and the need for grants. It set out the Authority's conservation policies and the regeneration aims of the scheme. It also set out how the scheme would be run if the Council were successful with the bid.

3.2 The bid was approved by English Heritage on 23rd May 2001, as set out in the 'Implementation Plan'. Since then the scheme has been publicised and the interest from shopkeepers has been very encouraging.

3.3 The first applications are expected imminently and thus a decision making body needs now to be put in place.

3.4 The approved 'Implementation Plan', based on previous similar grant schemes such as the Melbourne Conservation Area Partnership and the Shardlow Town Scheme, proposed the following:

'... applications should be determined by a committee The committee will comprise the following members with voting rights:

- four South Derbyshire Elected Members
- such members as may be nominated by English Heritage

and the following representatives without voting rights:

- one representative of the Chamber of Trade and Commerce
- one representative of the SRB 'Made in Swadlincote Partnership'
- one representative of the Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust

The above is based on the Council's previous structure and will need to be adapted to comply with the modernised committee structure.

The most appropriate forum in the new committee structure would be a sub committee of the Development Control Committee established on a task and finish basis for the specific purpose of distributing funds in accordance with the Implementation Plan. It is a three year grant scheme and it would be possible to establish a sub committee for this period.

There is no provision in the Council's constitution which would enable co-opted members to have voting rights on this type of committee and accordingly English Heritage would not be entitled to nominate a voting representative.

It is suggested that the terms of reference of the sub committee be as follows:

- to determine grant applications in accordance with the Implementation Plan
- to consider annual reviews of or other amendments to the Implementation Plan
- to determine requests to start work without prejudice to grant applications
- to determine requests that grants should not be repaid upon resale
- to determine whether grants should be paid in the event of non compliance with a condition

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The success of the scheme depends in part on the co-ordination of a variety of initiatives that affect the town centre. To this end an officers group has been set up to ensure that other initiatives do not conflict with the aims of the HERS.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The Swadlincote Town Centre Strategy and Vision public consultation exercise revealed a good measure of community support for exploiting the town's heritage

assets. 100% of all the responses to a questionnaire circulated amongst shopkeepers in the town expressed support for the HERS.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 HERS Implementation Plan. File Ref. 13.3.18.3

7.2 Report to Planning and Economic Development Committee 19th April 2001.