

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Moorlands Partnership Board

1 December 2021

TITLE:	Financial Summary and Proposed Grant Awards
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor S Ralphs - Council Leader SMDC
CONTACT OFFICER:	Joanne Brooks - Regeneration Officer
WARDS INVOLVED:	

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Member's approval to allocate grant funding from the Moorlands Partnership Board (MPB) in 2021/22. The budget for this year is £60,350.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Note the financial summary in 7.5 and action taken to increase uptake of grants.
- 2.2 Members of the Board are recommended to approve a 75% grant of £1,170 f towards eligible works at the village Well restoration at Endon totalling £1,560 (exclusive of VAT) and subject to the standard grant conditions.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 This report allows members to consider applications for environmental enhancement and heritage grants under the MPB for funding toward suitable projects within the district.
- 3.2 An application has been received for grant funding towards the restoration of the village Well at Endon, an analysis of the heritage value of the well is outlined at section 7.
- 3.3 Members will recall that given the extraordinary circumstances of last year, the finance team has agreed to roll forward any unallocated funds to the subsequent 4 years funding of the MPB. This provides a total of £60,000 to be allocated each financial year to 2024/25.
- 3.4 Subject to the above grant being approved, this will result in a current budget underspend of £50, 830 in 2021/22. A series of activities have been agreed

going forward to further promote the scheme and encourage uptake of grant funding.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

4.1 This report concerns publicly funding the enhancement, restoration or repair of historic properties or places that are either listed or an identified heritage asset. This, in turn, is related to the Council's corporate aim 3:

- To help create a strong economy by supporting further regeneration of towns and villages.

5. Alternative Options

5.1 To not approve environmental and heritage grant awards under the Moorlands Partnership Board and not allocate the capital budget of £60,350 set aside for this grant scheme. As a result, the MPB would not be able to continue to financially assist a number of environmental and heritage projects throughout the district and secure the repair, restoration and enhancement of heritage features, places and buildings. NOT RECOMMENDED

5.2 To continue to approve environmental and heritage grant awards to suitable projects throughout the district and to ensure the allocation of the budget of £60,350 this year. As a result, the MPB can financially assist with projects that secure the repair, restoration or enhancement of heritage features, places and buildings and contribute towards the further regeneration of town and villages through Staffordshire Moorlands. RECOMMENDED

6. Implications

6.1 Community Safety – No implications at this stage.

6.2 Workforce – The Moorlands Partnership Scheme is administered by an officer within the Regeneration Team with assistance when required from the council's Conservation Officer.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/ Equality Impact Assessment - No implications at this stage.

6.4 Financial considerations - There are allocations within the capital programme for the funding of the Moorlands Partnership scheme. The latest financial position states that there is £32,098 of outstanding works still to be claimed.

6.5 Legal - Local authorities are empowered to give grants towards improvements in conservation areas under Section 57 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

6.6 Climate Change – No Implications at this stage.

6.7 Consultation – Grant offers are made in consultation with and approved by the Moorlands Partnership Board. Where required, projects that require planning

permission and listed building consent are subject to the normally statutory consultations.

Neil Rodgers Executive Director (Place)

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

Location

Contact details

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7. PROPOSED GRANT AWARDS AND FUTURE ACTION

Endon Village Well

- 7.1 A grant application has been received from the Endon Well Dressing Festival Charity for replacement pipework that feeds the Well. The Well stands within the village of Endon. It was constructed by Thomas Heaton in 1845 to provide the village with a reliable source of drinking water and it has continued to flow since that time.
- 7.2 The Well in the centre of Endon is fed water through a pipe from a Well in the field behind. There has recently been a noticeable reduction in the flow rate of water to the point of it almost ceasing to flow at all. In addition, the Well water has an increased level of manganese, potentially making the water undrinkable.
- 7.3 The Well is unusual as it is one of a few outside Derbyshire that practices the tradition of Well dressing. There is a long and unbroken history of the villagers being able to take the waters, which represents an important and significant cultural and social activity that has existed in Endon since 1845. The reinstatement of a safe and continuous water supply will maintain this tradition for future generations.
- 7.4 Two estimates have been received for the works the lowest of which totals £1,560. This allows for replacing the pipework and installing two manholes covers to allow for future inspection and maintenance.
- 7.5 If members recommend approval of the grant applications on this report then the table below represents the current financial position this year.

Scheme	Budget £60,350 2021/22
Grant offers to date:	
6 Russell Street additional grant	£350
St Edward's summer houses	£8,000
Remaining funds	£52,000
Potential grant offers from this report	
Endon Village Well	£1,170

Total remaining funds	£50,830

- 7.6 There is a remaining budget of £50,830 to be awarded this year. This is a significant amount to be allocated within the remaining 4 months of this financial year. Members should note that the usual budget rules apply and there is no ability to carry forward any unused allocation.
- 7.7 In order to try and ensure a good take up of grants the Board agreed the following at their last meeting:
- Increasing the maximum grant award from £4,000 to £8,000.
 - Increasing the grant percentage from 50% to 75%.
 - Offer 'one off' enhanced grant offers over and above the proposed new maximum to key strategic conservation projects.
 - Use the Town Centre Manager for the Moorlands – Lisa Hoyland to actively promote the scheme throughout the Moorlands.
 - Approach town and parish councils for potential projects.
- 3.4 A revised grant leaflet has been prepared and has been circulated to all town and parish council's requesting potential projects. For next year the Regeneration Team will consider implementing a more structured funding scheme whereby town/parish councils can bid for additional funding from the MPB budget to carry out an approved and pre-agreed list of heritage projects that meet the funding criteria. Further details of this will be brought back to the Board next year.
- 3.5 Despite the increase in the grant cap and funding percentage, the general interest in the grant scheme is low. In addition, several anticipated applications have been withdrawn due to the increased costs associated with the construction industry and in particular the cost of timber, that impacts on schemes that involve the repair or restoration of traditional joinery details.