

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to The Executive

3 August 2017

TITLE:	Heritage Regeneration Grants
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR	Councillor Tony Kemp - Tourism, Regeneration and Licensing
OFFICER:	Joanne Brooks, Regeneration Officer
WARDS INVOLVED:	All

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Member's approval to suspend the Heritage Regeneration Grants (HRG) for the foreseeable future and direct the budget towards the continued investment in, and public use of, the council's own historic public buildings.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To seek approval for the scheme to be suspended indefinitely while the council is committed to carrying out similar works on those heritage buildings that are in council ownership. It is not proposed to bring a formal end to the scheme as it may be considered desirable to reinstate it at a later date when other priorities have been addresses.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 Since 2012 Heritage Regeneration Grants have been targeted to promote the repair and restoration of historic buildings within the High Peak Local Plan area. The scheme operates with a budget of £45,000 per annum. The grant scheme originates from the earlier partnership grant schemes whereby the council, along with Historic England (formerly English Heritage) and Derbyshire County Council jointly funded district wide conservation grant schemes. Despite the withdrawal of funding by both the County and HE the council has, for a number of years, continued to support its commitment by solely funding the HRG scheme.
- 3.2 The council is also the owner of a significant number of publicly used historic buildings across the borough. As owners, the council has an

obligation to invest in their ongoing repair and restoration to enable continued public use. The council is committed to ensure that these buildings remain in good condition and is currently spending £2.9m on major structural repairs to the Octagon at Pavilion Gardens. In the future, the council will have to consider and take into account further discussions regarding the future of Glossop Halls.

- 3.3 Although it is recognised that the HRG scheme has promoted a number of exemplary historic building repair and restoration projects since its inception, it is also considered that, by suspending it, these funds can be directed towards the continued and future investment in the council's own historic buildings. This has the benefit of providing a more strategic framework for targeting monies, rather than spreading these thinly and on a more ad hoc basis.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report concerns publicly funding the restoration and repair of historic properties that are owned by the council. This, in turn, is related to the Council's corporate aim 3:
- To support Economic Development & Regeneration – measured by sustainable town and rural communities.

5. Options and Analysis

- 5.1 **Option 1** - Approve the report's recommendation to discontinue the HRG for the immediate future and to use the budget of £45,000 per annum towards investing in the council's own historic building stock that is held in trust for future generations.
Recommended
- 5.2 **Option 2** – Not approve the report's recommendation and continue with the HRG. Whilst this would potentially secure a number of further restoration and repair projects, these would be district wide and lack the focus of being targeted more strategically towards key heritage council owned buildings. **Not recommended.**

6. Implications

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

No implications

6.2 Workforce

No implications

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies.

6.4 Financial Considerations

There are allocations within the capital programme for the Heritage Regeneration Grant scheme.

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. The Act confers a discretionary power rather than a mandatory duty and the council can decide not to provide grants by exercising its discretion. Any impact on potential grant recipients should be considered as part of the proposal to suspend the heritage grant scheme.

6.6 Sustainability

Repairing and restoring council owned historic buildings for the use of this and future generations, is a sustainable activity.

6.7 Internal and External Consultation

No implications.

6.8 Risk Assessment

No implications.

Dai Lerner
Executive Director (Place)

Web Links and Background Papers

Heritage Regeneration Grants

Location

Files held electronically

Contact details

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7. Background and Detail

7.1 The HRG scheme has operated since 2012 with an annual budget of £45,000. Since its commencement, it has offered £161,471 in grants aid towards 20 properties, contributing to a total investment of £339,468 towards the repair and restoration of historic buildings across the borough. However, over the last couple of years Officers have

struggled to full allocate the budget, despite advertising it widely, and this has resulted in an underspend of the grants budget.

- 7.2 The council is also the owner of a number of publicly used historic buildings across the borough. The redirection of the HRG budget towards these will allow for a continued, but strategic, programme of repair and restoration. By focusing the budget in a more targeted and considered manner the council's investment can maximise the impact securing key public heritage assets for the benefit of this and future generations.