

Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	01/05/15
Originator	Acting Head Of Development
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Document Title	Tranent Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme

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REPORT TO: Members' Library Service

MEETING DATE:

BY: Depute Chief Executive - Partnership and Community Services

SUBJECT: Tranent Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Members are asked to note the acceptance of an offer from Historic Scotland to East Lothian Council for grant funding for a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme for Tranent and to set out the financial implications for East Lothian Council in implementing the scheme. These funds have been accepted by the interim Head of Development, under powers delegated to Heads of Service per 4.6(c) of the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That East Lothian Council notes the acceptance of the offer of £570,900 from Historic Scotland for a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme in Tranent.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A bid was submitted to Historic Scotland for a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme for Tranent in August 2014. In March 2015 Historic Scotland announced that the bid was successful and that a sum of £570,900 had been approved by Scottish Ministers.
- 3.2 The Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme is for the overall enhancement of the Tranent Conservation Area through the repair of the historic built environment. It will specifically target those buildings within the Tranent Conservation Area that are in need of repair and enhancement to improve the overall quality and appearance of the town. Building owners will be made aware of available grants to undertake

necessary repairs to the exterior of the buildings. Specific target buildings/groups of buildings have been identified on the basis of repair need and ability to contribute to the overall enhancement of the conservation area, focused primarily on the town centre.

3.3 Where other buildings within the conservation area are eligible, for example those that have individual architectural features that require repair or replacement, for example, the rebuilding of a chimney or the repair or replacement of a traditional shopfront, then grants will also be awarded under the scheme.

3.4 A proportion of the funds provided by Historic Scotland (at least 5%) must be allocated to:

- Promoting Tranent's historic built environment (the importance of the historic built environment, good building maintenance practices, and the need to make timely, good quality repairs to buildings).
- Promoting of, and providing training in, traditional craft and building skills. This aspect of the scheme will focus on youth employability, and increasing the skills base of local tradespeople to allow them to pursue successful careers in the sector.

3.5 The scheme will be managed by the Investment and Regeneration Team within the Economic Development and Strategic Investment service. Contained within the bid is a commitment from East Lothian Council to contribute £115,000 (£23,000 per year) to the grant fund over the duration of the scheme. Funding will be secured from Partnership Funding and Community Intervention approved budgets. The total combined Tranent CARS fund will be £685,900. A part time, project specific post will be created to help administer the scheme. The cost of the project post is estimated at £69,028 over five years and will be shared equally between the Historic Scotland grant and East Lothian Council. Additional project based internships will be established from time to time throughout the duration of the scheme and will be funded by the Historic Scotland Grant. Additional administration costs that will be borne by East Lothian Council for the scheme are estimated at £20,000 (£4,000 per year) over five years and can be accommodated from within existing budgets. East Lothian Council's contribution therefore amounts to a total of £169,514 over 5 years. Historic Scotland requires the Council to agree to set aside the sums set out in the application to the scheme.

3.7 Implementation of the scheme will provide investment to upgrade the quality of Tranent town centre and enhance its ability to attract and retain retail and commercial businesses. Recent work undertaken in Tranent funded through the Coalfields Regeneration Trust identified the importance of the historic built environment to the economic viability of Tranent town centre and recommended that investment was needed to maintain its attractiveness. The Fa'side Area Partnership has made the

town centre one of its key priorities and has formed a sub-group to take this forward. The Partnership successfully bid for funding from the Scottish Government to undertake a charrette to create a vision and masterplan for the town centre and this work is nearing completion.

- 3.8 The Council's Corporate Legal Advisors have reviewed the grant offer and are satisfied with its terms.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The implementation of this scheme will contribute to the delivery of the East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement, Council Plan, Economic Development Strategy and Local Housing Strategy.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – The resource implications for East Lothian Council are explained in paragraphs 3.5 above and are estimated to be £169,514 over five years. Funding for posts identified, ELC grant contribution, and additional administration costs are contained within existing budgets. The Historic Scotland grant will fund 50% of the dedicated project post.
- 6.2 Personnel – A part time officer will be required to help promote and administer the scheme over its lifetime. The officer will be appointed on a two day a week basis over the five year period.
- 6.3 Other – none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 The application to Historic Scotland for a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme for Tranent has been lodged in the Member's Library.
- 7.2 Tranent and Elphinstone Community Action Plan 2014-2019, Coalfields Community Futures.

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/15496/tranent_and_elphinstone_community_action_plan_2014-19

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