

Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund – The Barracks, Barracks Road, (Ref: 15/16007/HBG)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Working Party indicate its views on proposals going to the Planning Committee that:-

A grant of £5,000 be approved for the repair of the windows at The Barracks, Barracks Road, Newcastle, subject to the appropriate standard conditions

Purpose of report

To inform the Working Party of an application for financial assistance towards the cost of the repair of this building complex which is a Grade II Listed Building and give the Working Party an opportunity to express its views on that application.

This project is to improve the windows at the Barracks. Many windows are in urgent need of repair, some beyond repair and needing replacement. Windows are a mixture of timber and metal and these will be replaced like for like where necessary. The building is managed by a trust which lets the building out to businesses. They want to try and improve the environment for their tenants and are starting with the windows on a piecemeal basis. The aim is ask the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant as well. Forshaw Greaves architects have been commissioned by the trust to undertake an inventory of all windows in the building and cost this in terms of replacement or repair. This work has now been undertaken. To improve the environment for the tenants the project also involves secondary glazing proposal which requires LBC but is being dealt with separately and not included in the estimated costs.

The total cost of the work is estimated at £112,350 including VAT. The works are eligible for grant up to 20% of the total cost however the maximum grant that can be awarded is £5,000. The Trust will go out to tender from 3 companies and however given the high cost of the windows, any tender is likely to be over £25,000, so the Council will likely still be awarding £5,000. If the cost of the work comes to below £25,000 then the grant proportion will be reduced accordingly.

The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party will be reported to the Planning Committee.

Financial Implications

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with £39,000 in the Fund allowing for commitments.