

**Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund – Newcastle Methodist Church, (Ref: 13/14012/HBG)**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Planning Committee approves a grant of £216 for the repair of the roof at Newcastle Methodist Church, subject to the appropriate standard conditions**

**Purpose of report**

To consider an application for financial assistance towards the cost of the repair of this property which is within Newcastle Town Centre Conservation Area.

**Introduction**

The building was built in 1803 and rebuilt and modified in 1822 and 1998 and occupies a prominent position in this part of the Conservation Area with its stucco blockwork, over brick, projecting string courses and first floor and parapet roof. The 3 large sash windows at the upper floor with arched heads set in decorative plaster work are a dominant feature of this elevation. The building is being damaged by water ingress at the front right hand side of the roof where the valley of the projecting addition adjoins the main roof pitch.

The cost of the work, including VAT, is £2,160.

As a building is an historic building within a conservation area, works eligible for grant funding would normally be the subject of a 10% grant offer. The maximum grant that can be awarded is £10,000.

**Financial Implications**

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with approximately £38,000 in the Fund, which allows for current outstanding commitments.

**Conclusions**

The building is adjacent to a collection of historic buildings in the town centre Conservation Area and it is important to retain the upkeep of general maintenance which if left unchecked will be harmful to the future of the building. The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party will be reported to the Planning Committee who will make the decision on whether or not to award the grant.