

**Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund – Clayton Hall Academy, Clayton Lane, Newcastle (Ref: 20/21002/HBG)**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the following grant is approved:-**

- 1. £2,006 Historic Building Grant be given towards the repair of the original staircase.**

**Purpose of report**

To enable members to consider the application for financial assistance.

Clayton Hall is a Grade II Listed Hall which sits with a parkland estate. The current Hall was built around 1840 to replace an earlier house. It became a school in 1948 and is now Clayton Hall Academy specialising in business and enterprise and languages. The main staircase within the historic building requires 3 decorative cast iron balusters to be replaced and all existing balusters to be tightened to the stone treads and hardwood handrail.

This work was investigated and identified because one metal baluster became loose and fell and hurt someone and on investigation the stability of the handrail and balusters was found to be compromised, with some sections moving. The school commissioned a conservator to consider the staircase and the report is available to view on the file. At present there is also a contingency in the quotation for additional work – that is to install a steel core rail, formed to fit on site for strengthening purposes. This may not be necessary but will be identified once the contractor is on site.

Two competitive quotations have been received by contractors. The cost of the work is estimated at £9,160 excluding VAT as this is recoverable, Fees are 870.20 with total cost £10,030. The building is a Grade II Listed Building, and the work is eligible for 20% grant towards the cost of the works.

The Conservation Advisory Working Party has not considered this application because due to the corona virus all meetings of this group have been suspended until further notice.

**Financial Implications**

Historic buildings and structures are entitled to apply for up to a maximum of £5,000 from the Conservation and Heritage Grant Fund. The intervention rate is 20% of the cost of the work for Listed Buildings. Buildings within Conservation Areas or on the Register of Locally Important Buildings are eligible to apply for 10% of the cost of such work.

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with £8,000 in the Fund; allowing for commitments.