



BUSINESS CASE
(FORM B & Priority Assessment)

Project name Melton Mowbray – Partnership Scheme in Conservation Area (PSICA) 2010/11

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Author:	Richard Spooner
Project Manager:	J Worley

Purpose

To secure the Committee's authorization to spend the Council's commitment to the 2010/11 Partnership Schemes in Melton Mowbray Conservation Area (PSiCA). The funds were approved as part of the capital programme.

Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas is an English Heritage initiative designed to target funding for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas. They are based on partnerships between English Heritage, local authorities as lead partner and other funding partners.

Partnership schemes make grants available to owners of individual properties, within a conservation area, who want to carry out repairs or other appropriate work. The funding comes from English Heritage, local authorities, the property owner and any other potential sources.

Contents

Topic	See Page
Reasons	7
Options	7
Benefits expected	8
Risks	8
Cost	9
Timescales	9
Investment appraisal	10
Evaluation	10
Consultation	10
Equalities Impact Assessment	10

Reasons

The operation of the scheme will ensure that English Heritage match funds the joint contribution made to the scheme by both this Council and Leicestershire County Council. In effect this means that every £1 contributed by this Council will generate another £3 of partnership funding (£1 LCC & £2 EH), thus quadrupling potential funding for repair and restoration of historic buildings within the conservation area, which in turn will generate additional funding.

The Partnership was set up in 2008 and has operated on the same basis as proposed since. During those three financial years and to date over 20 town centre properties have benefitted from that funding.

Options

The contribution sought from Melton Borough Council is £15000 for the one year extension of the PSICA scheme beyond its original three year period of operation. Without a contribution from MBC the Partnership will not operate.

Benefits expected

Investments in individual buildings which collectively will increase the quality and appearance of Melton Town Centre and Conservation Area.

Part of the Town Centre Priority Action Plan intended to stimulate inward investment in the town centre and improve its offer,, leading to a more viable and vital town centre.

Risks

Failure to identify schemes suitable and eligible for funding.
 Failure of property owners to take advantage of the available funds,
 within the lifetime of the partnership

Funding Source (delete as appropriate):

(i) Capital Fund

External Funding

(i) Source and Quantity:

£50,000 pa from English Heritage – initially for the three year scheme but
 also for a subsequent year;

£35,000 pa from Leicestershire County Council – initially for the three year
 scheme but also for a subsequent year.

Committee: REEA**Capital/Revenue** (delete as appropriate)

Spending profile/ method of funding	Spend to 31/3/08 £	2008/09 £	2009/10 £	2010/11 £	Later Years £	Total £
Internal Funding	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	60,000
External Funding	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	0	240,000
Total Cost/savings	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	300,000

Costs**Financial appraisal**

Financial Appraisal (Capital Schemes only)	(i)	Has the proposal been subjected to any form of financial appraisal? No
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Timescales Financial Year 2010/11
Investment appraisal N/A

Evaluation The project has obvious linkages to the Council's priority of enhancing the vitality and viability of the town centre. It would complement the existing physical improvements identified in the Town Centre Priority Plan and the detailed application may be able to facilitate some of the measures within it.

At a broader level, the scheme would improve the Council's efficiency and effectiveness by securing greater investment in the town centre from the Council's own contribution. As such, it would contribute to the ethos of 'doing what we do well' and 'doing what we do efficiently'.

The Conservation Officer, working with representatives of the County Council, has identified a range of works that are eligible for grant funding and whose owners are willing to proceed in the current year. These include:

- Caffè Italia in Church Lane;
- Age Concern in Nottingham Street;
- Nos 1 – 7 Leicester Street (La Torre, Melton Bookshop & USA Chicken); and
- Farmer Brothers Workshop in Park Lane.

Grants are offered at a minimum rate of 40% and the applicant must provide the additional funding to a maximum of 60%.

Each £1 contributed by this Council secures up to an additional £9 worth of repair work.

Consultation Close liaison with colleagues in English Heritage and Leics County Council.

Interfaces (internal/external) The scheme generates applications that add to the workload of development Control. However, these can be met from within existing resources

Impact on other services Payments are made through internal invoicing systems

Dependencies All other aspects are incorporated into the mainstream work of the Conservation Officer

Completion criteria/ exit strategy Exhaustion of funds – the projects identified for funding in 2010/11 will utilize all of the grant funding available.

The Partnership is time limited until the end of March 2011 and will not continue without the full agreement of all partners.

Sensitivity to key assumptions None – other partners are fully engaged and have formal commitment of the match funding on which the Partnership is founded.

Other approvals required None.

Equalities Impact Assessment N/A