

2010

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**REPORT TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

18<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**REPORT AUTHOR: HEAD OF REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**SUBJECT: SEVERN VALLEY BUILT HERITAGE FUND**

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**REPORT FOR: Information and Decision**

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**1 SUMMARY**

To inform Portfolio Holder of changes to the selection and prioritisation procedures and the capping thresholds of the awards available under the Severn Valley Built Heritage Fund.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

To ensure the achievement of all the fund's objectives a prioritisation assessment criteria was established in the form of a scoring matrix to enable a comparison to be made between projects therefore helping to identify those projects that would go furthest in helping to meet the fund's objectives.

Following our initial assessment of the prioritisation process upon applications received and the comments received at the meeting of the Montgomery Built Heritage Sub Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010 the following changes are being proposed:

**3 PROPOSALS**

a) Prioritisation

- 1) Within the scoring matrix (Appendix A) there are two threads to the criteria economic outputs and built heritage factors. Although economic outputs are to be fulfilled by this fund to meet the requirements of WEFO, too much weighting was being given to that particular thread, therefore to address this over emphasis the following changes are proposed to the matrix.
  - Removal of criteria 'Number of Jobs created'. Any jobs created would be adequately catered for within the criteria 'jobs accommodated'. Therefore this output had the potential of being double counted. The number of jobs created is an estimated output unlike the other outputs which are actual; therefore it would not be appropriate to prioritise application on that basis.
  - Some of the scoring of the built heritage criteria have been adjusted to give them more weighting. Scores have been increased where items are felt to be of more significance/importance to the sustainability of our historic building stock.
- 2) Criteria 4 (Cumulative impact) – the word potential has been inserted so not to disadvantage those applications received early on in the lifetime of the programme or those from towns where no previous grant schemes have been operating. The low

and medium cells have been combined within this criteria as it was felt that there was little distinction between the two descriptions.

b) Capping

Thresholds were applied to ensure that the take up of assistance was spread as wide as was possible, to ensure that as much benefit as possible could be achieved from this funding. Initial thresholds were agreed as follows:

- under 30 -deferred
- 30-49 –capped at £50,000
- 50+ - capped at £75,000

From carrying out trials on potential applications it has become clear that the thresholds maybe set incorrectly, placing too many and also worthy applications on to a deferred list.

The establishment of a deferred list initially was to make sure that the opportunity was given for exceptionally worthy applications to come forward at a later date and for not all of the funds to have be allocated early on in the process.

Having reviewed this deferral option it has been decided that it may be very difficult to keep large numbers of applicants on such a list and to be able to justify the length of time to be allowed before re-considering their application. There is also an issue with applications requiring urgent repair works who simply could not afford to wait.

Therefore it is proposed to remove the option of the deferred list and to replace this with a third capping of £25,000 and refusal for those applications that score under 14. This would still allow small scale yet worthy projects to proceed as chances are the cost of these projects will be small enough for a maximum of £25,000 to make significance.

The revised capping thresholds are as follows, and have been approved by WEFO.

- under 14 – refused
- 14-29 – capped at £25,000
- 30-45 – capped at £50,000
- 46+ - capped at £75,000

**4 CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Severn Valley Built Heritage Fund, by offering assistance to maintain and restore the fabric of historic buildings, supports the Corporate Improvement Plan priority of enhancing and sustaining the built environment.

<b>Recommendation:</b>		<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>	
That the Portfolio Holder approves the changes to the selection & prioritisation and capping thresholds of the fund.		To implement the Severn Valley Built Heritage Fund and to provide assistance for eligible works	
<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Yes	<b>Within Budget:</b>	Yes
<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>			

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