

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CABINET MEETING – 4 MARCH 2009**

#### **KILMARNOCK CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME – APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO 93 JOHN FINNIE STREET, KILMARNOCK**

##### **Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval of a CARS grant out with the delegated authority granted by Cabinet to the Head of Planning & Economic Development in relation to the approval of Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) small grant applications.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The 24 October 2007 Cabinet approved the CARS Grant approval process and agreed to delegate authority to the Head of Planning & Economic Development to approve grant applications for priority buildings that are within 10% of the Indicative Total Grant Allocation contained in the CARS Approved Schedule, and to approve CARS small grant applications up to £25,000, and to disperse all grant payments under this scheme.

### **3. SMALL GRANT APPLICATION**

- 3.1 A small CARS grant application was received relating to business premises improvements at 93 John Finnie Street on the 6 February 2009. The total project costs include construction costs and professional fees in respect of the replacement of windows, external doors and the formation of a canopy fascia.
- 3.2 The total eligible project costs are £35,005.05, the grant requested is £28,004.04, 80% of the eligible project costs. This grant application has been assessed in terms of heritage merit, financial need, and quality/extent of work by the Technical Assessment Team. The CARS Project Officer has recommended the approval of a grant of £28,004.04.
- 3.3 Small Grants for all non-priority buildings in the Outstanding Conservation Area are generally up to a maximum of £25,000. The Head of Planning & Economic Development has delegated authority to approve CARS small grant applications up to £25,000, and to disperse all grant payments under this scheme. The proposed CARS grant is out with the scope of the approved delegated authority. Therefore

specific cabinet authority is required to approve a CARS grant of £28,004.04 for business premises improvements at 93 John Finnie Street, Kilmarnock.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The CARS budget is a special project budget held by the Council. The financial management of the CARS is being governed by the Council's Accounting Policy Bulletins APB 27C and APB 27D specifically drawn up for the CARS and THI grant schemes.

#### **5. LEGAL/PERSONNEL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The CARS Project Officer and Technical Assessment Team have assessed the grant application and prepared a report recommending approval of the grant application. Where a grant is approved it will be subject to standard conditions required by Historic Scotland to ensure high quality workmanship and that the objectives of the CARS are met. Additional conditions may also be attached depending on individual circumstances.
- 5.2 Offers of grant will be issued by the Solicitor to the Council following the appropriate authorisation.

#### **6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The implementation of the CARS will contribute significantly to achieving targets contained in the "Improving the Environment" and "Improving Opportunities" Action Plans of the East Ayrshire Community Plan. The project will also contribute towards meeting the draft aims and aspirations of the 'Delivering Community Regeneration' Action Plan which is currently being prepared.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 All offers of grant are subject to a condition requiring that "the Grantee shall, having taken professional advice to ensure that adequate insurance cover exists to protect the existing structures, potential liabilities and the contract works, having first carried out the relevant risk assessments and ensured compliance with Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and those relevant statutory provisions made there-under." This wording has been agreed with the Council's Risk Manager.
- 7.2 As advised to Cabinet on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2007, the financial risks associated with the implementation of the CARS grant scheme are being minimised by compliance with the Council's Accounting Policy Bulletins APB 27C and APB 27D. It will also be minimised by the conditions attached to any offer of grant, particularly the requirement to

take Standard Securities over the grantees property in the case of grants in excess of £25,000.

- 7.3 The CARS Project Officer will also inspect the works and agree the architect certificates/submitted invoices prior to the payment of grant funding.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet agrees:-

- (i) to approve a CARS grant of £28,004.04 for business premises improvements at 93 John Finnie Street, Kilmarnock.

**Elizabeth Morton**  
**Depute Chief Executive/  
Executive Director of Corporate Support**

23 February 2009 (CMcK/)

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Report to Cabinet – 24 October 2007, “Kilmarnock Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme – Grant Approval Process/Delegated Powers”
2. Report to Cabinet – 6 March 2007 “Community, Heritage and Environment Projects Overview 2006/07 – 2007/08”.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Karl Doroszenko, Development Planning & Regeneration Manager, Tel: 01563 576751

***Implementation Officer: Alan Neish, Head Of Planning and Economic Development***