

## **BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FROM:** Acting Head of Planning Policy &  
Economic Development

**REPORT NUMBER** **E223**

**TO:** DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE OF MEETING** 7 December 2005

### **SUDBURY HERITAGE ECONOMIC REGENERATION SCHEME:**

### **PROPOSED GRANT FOR 18 FRIARS STREET**

#### 1. **SUMMARY**

18 Friars Street, Sudbury is a commercial property within the HERS area requiring some roof and window repairs. It was also identified in the Sudbury Shopfront Study as suitable for reinstatement of a traditional shopfront. The proposed grant for this building is in excess of £5,000, and therefore requires Committee approval. This report recommends that a HERS grant of £19,592 be offered towards eligible roof, window and shopfront works.

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Development Committee approves the offer of a grant of £19,592 towards these works.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter

#### 3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Within the HERS Action Plan there is £45,000 of funding allocated for shopfront works and £140,000 for general repairs over the three years of the scheme. To date £8,231 has been offered towards shopfronts leaving £36,769 in that budget and £104,312 has been offered for general repairs leaving £35,688 in that budget. The total cost of reinstatement works is £19,920 (75% = £14,940) and of eligible repair works is £11,633 (40% = £4,652), thus justifying the proposed offer of £19,592.

#### 4. **KEY INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Sudbury HERS runs for a period of three years until September 2006. The Action Plan was agreed by Strategy Committee in May 2003, and English Heritage in September 2003. The scheme is funded 50% by English Heritage and 50% locally, with annual contributions from Town, District and County Councils.
- 4.2 The main aim of the scheme is to promote economic regeneration through grant aid for the repair and conservation of buildings in parts of Sudbury Conservation Area peripheral to the main town centre. The main targets for the funding are the commercial and industrial buildings in Sudbury's side-streets, both those still in use and others now redundant, which form an important part of the town's heritage.

- 4.3 18 Friars Street is listed grade II and is an eligible commercial property within the scheme area. The Sudbury Shopfronts Study (1996, adopted as supplementary planning guidance) identified it as a suitable building for the reinstatement of a traditional shopfront.
- 4.4 An application has now been received for grant aid to help with repairs and reinstatement works to 18 Friars Street, the building used by the applicant as the Friars Street Clinic. The proposed works include roof repairs plus the reinstatement of three windows and a traditional shopfront, all works eligible for grant under the scheme conditions.
- 4.5 Two quotations have been provided as required to ensure good value for money; the lowest is for £31,553 worth of works identified as eligible under the scheme. This total cost breaks down into £19,920 for window and shopfront reinstatement works (75% = £14,940) and £11,633 for roof repairs (40% = £4,652), thus justifying the proposed offer of £19,592.
- 4.6 The grant can be offered under our standard conditions, which include the requirement of displaying a signboard advertising that a grant has been given.

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