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## **BUILT HERITAGE INCENTIVE FUND**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the grants criteria and conditions for the Built Heritage Incentive Fund.

### **2. Executive Summary**

The Built Heritage Policy (which was adopted by Council in June 2005) included the Heritage Incentive Fund as a key new initiative. This single fund replaces the former Building Safety and Heritage Funds. There is \$250,000 available for grants in 2006/07, and \$350,000 in each of the following five financial years. This report sets out the proposed grants criteria and conditions for the new fund.

### **3. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree to the grants criteria and conditions for the Built Heritage Incentive Fund as set out in the report.*
- 3. Agree that the Grants Sub-Committee approves the proposed disbursement of grants from the Fund in three annual funding rounds.*

### **4. Background**

The *Built Heritage Incentive Fund* is a key initiative of the Built Heritage Policy, which was adopted by Council in June 2005. The Policy aims to demonstrate Council's "*renewed commitment to the City's built heritage to current owners, the community, visitors to the city and future generations*". Other key initiatives in the Policy are improving statutory protection for the built heritage and creating more heritage areas in the city and suburbs.

The *Built Heritage Incentive Fund* replaces the former Building Safety Fund and Heritage Fund, and provides a more flexible approach to encourage the conservation of the city's listed buildings and objects, and buildings in heritage areas that contribute to status of heritage buildings and objects.

The purpose of the fund is to help people conserve, restore and protect aspects of Wellington’s **built heritage** for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations. It is intended that grants from the fund will help meet some of the additional costs associated with owning and caring for a heritage property.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Grants Criteria

The *Built Heritage Incentive Fund* has \$250,000 available for grants in 2006/07, and \$350,000 in each of the following five financial years.

The proposed criteria for eligibility for grants from the Fund are set out in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Built Heritage Incentive Fund Criteria**

No	Criteria
1.	The project makes a positive contribution to achieving the Council’s Strategic Outcomes as listed in the Council’s LTCCP
2.	The project is within Wellington City
3.	The projects relates to buildings and objects listed in the District Plan or by the Historic Places Trust, or to buildings and objects identified as contributing to a heritage area
4.	The project protects and enhances the heritage significance of the item concerned
5.	The applicant provides evidence of: appropriate project management, appropriate technical supervision, sufficient resources to complete the project on time, and demonstrated ability to report back on the project results as appropriate
6.	The project must be for:
	Stabilisation, repair or restoration of original heritage fabric relating to historic buildings, structures, or objects or the remains thereof (e.g. repairs to masonry, joinery, plaster or glazing, earthquake strengthening, fire protection, protective works on archaeological sites); <b>or</b>
	Professional services (e.g. structural strengthening reports, maintenance reports, conservation plans, archaeological sites assessments, conservation work specifications, or supervision of work, technical advice etc.); <b>or</b>
	Reimbursement of Council resource consent fees for approved conservation work requiring a resource consent as well as changes to a

	listed item which does not affect its heritage values
7.	The applicant is the owner or part owner of the heritage building or object (e.g. a private owner, charitable trust including church organisations). The Crown, Crown entities, District Health Boards, Community Boards, Council Controlled Organisations and Council Business Units are not eligible for funding

## 5.2 Grants Assessment

There will be three funding rounds each year: the last working day of July, November and March.

All applications will be assessed by Officers within the Urban Design Unit as to whether the above criteria have been met. Projects that fall outside the criteria may be referred to the Strategy and Policy Committee for further consideration.

Depending on the quantity and quality of applications in each funding round, priority will be given to the following:

- At-risk significant heritage buildings and objects
- Fire protection systems for residential owners
- Funding for professional services (e.g. structural strengthening reports, maintenance reports, conservation plans, archaeological sites assessments, conservation work specifications, or supervision of work, technical advice etc.)
- Projects that have high public access and/or visibility from public areas.

The list of recommended projects will be submitted to the Grants Sub-Committee for approval.

## 5.3 Grants Conditions

Council will reserve the right to impose conditions when approving grants under this funding policy, as set out in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Built Heritage Incentive Fund Conditions**

No	Condition
1.	Grants will be subject to the availability of funds in any particular financial year
2.	One grant only will be considered for each project
3.	Staged availability of monies may be agreed as a condition of a grant
4.	Where a grant has been approved for a conservation report or other professional report, payment will be made following a peer review of the report by Council or a designated consultant

5.	The amount of funding available for projects involving only construction costs, such as earthquake strengthening, will be based on a percentage of the value of the conservation improvements. This will be up to 50% of the cost of the work to a maximum of \$80,000
6.	Funding for conservation reports, technical advice and for domestic fire protection systems will be generally up to a maximum of \$10,000
7.	Grants will only be assessed as a percentage of the heritage conservation component of a project, not of the total project cost. The grant assessment is at the sole discretion of the Council
8.	Grants will only be available for uplifting for a period limited from 18 months from the date of written approval unless the Council expressly extends this period for special circumstances
9.	Grants of over \$50,000 may require a memorandum of encumbrance to be registered on the relevant title(s) to ensure retention of the building
10.	Grants are payable on completion and certification of the works and the registration of any encumbrance

## 6. Conclusion

The Built Heritage Incentive Fund is a key initiative of the Built Heritage Policy and demonstrates Council's ongoing commitment to protect and conserve the City's heritage.

Contact Officer: *Gerald Blunt, Manger Urban Design Policy*

## Supporting Information

### 1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

*This initiative supports Council's overall vision of Creative Wellington – Innovation Capital. It has a direct link to the Urban Development Strategy, has links with the Transport and the Culture Well-Being Strategies.*

*This initiative supports the second highest strategic priority - high quality urban design. It also contributes to the delivery of other strategic priorities:*

- *Protection of sense of place*

*High quality urban design contributes to the following Council outcomes:*

*Outcome 1: More liveable – by developing and maintaining a high quality public environment*

*Outcome 2: Stronger sense of place – by integrating sense of place into asset management, by enhancing the role of the city as Capital, by ensuring high quality built design and by conserving the city's heritage.*

### 2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

*Council has agreed to \$250,000 being allocated to this project in the 2006-07 year. This is proposed to be increased to \$350,000 in on going years.*

### 3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

*N/A*

### 4) Decision-Making

*This decision shows Council's commitment to raising the profile of this important initiative.*

### 5) Consultation

#### a) General Consultation

*Consultation has occurred as part of the development of the Built Heritage Policy.*

#### b) Consultation with Maori

*N/A*

### 6) Legal Implications

*This paper has been peer reviewed by Philips Fox.*

### 7) Consistency with existing policy

*This initiative is consistent with existing Council policy.*