

Date: 13 December 2010

Mr Lee Kindness
Via email to
request-52429-75fb9827@whatdotheyknow.com

F.O.I. ref: IN408688- 188724

Your ref: 52429-75fb9827

Dear Mr Kindness,

Re: Portobello Town Scheme, Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information about the Portobello Town Scheme. I can now advise that due to the nature of your request, it will be dealt with under the Environment (Scotland) Regulations 2004. This is because the enquiry is about the built environment. Responses to your specific questions are detailed below:

- 1. Is this scheme still in operation, or has it been cancelled, superseded or otherwise suspended? (consider requests below for any successor scheme)**

The Portobello Town Scheme ceased to run at the end of the financial year 2008-09. This is because there was no continuing Council funding for Town Schemes beyond this date. There is no existing or proposed successor scheme.

- 2. A breakdown of grant amounts awarded and type of works over the last 3 years**

There has been no Town Scheme in the financial years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, so a breakdown of the three years prior to those dates is provided.

Grants were awarded of 50% of the cost of the grant-eligible work, up to a maximum grant of £3000. Grants were funded equally by CEC and Historic Scotland.

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DIRECTOR

G1 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG
Tel 0131 529 3595 Fax 0131 529 6205



2008-2009

Property	Type of work	Total grant	CEC share
3 West Brighton Crescent	Railing reinstatement	£1398	£699
21 Bath Street	Wall reinstatement	£3000	£1500
10 East Brighton Crescent	Stonework repair	£3000	£1500
8A Dalkeith Street	Window replacement	£1986	£993
7 Joppa Park	Window restoration	£824	£412
7 West Brighton Crescent	Railing reinstatement	£1490	£1245
12 West Brighton Crescent	Railing reinstatement	£954	£477
42 Regent Street	Chimney replacement	£3000	£1500
20 Bellfield Street	Replacement windows	£956	£478
14/1 Marlborough Street	Window restoration	£820	£410
9 Marlborough Street	Stonework repair	£3000	£1500
22 Straiton Place	Replacement windows	£2250	£1125
4 Straiton Place	Stonework refurbishment	£1040	£520
7 2f3 Ramsay Place	Replacement windows	£1708	£854
33/5 Marlborough Street	Window restoration	£952	£476
36 Argyle Crescent	Window restoration	£3000	£1500
41A Argyle Crescent	Window restoration	£1634	£817
5 Windsor Place	Re-render gable wall	£3000	£1500
20 Bath Street	Wall repair	£750	£375
20 Bath Street	Railing reinstatement	£1258	£629
20 Straiton Place	Railing reinstatement	£1506	£753
22 Straiton Place	Railing reinstatement	£1544	£772
24 Straiton Place	Railing reinstatement	£2236	£1118
36/2 Marlborough Street	Replacement windows	£1314	£657
11 West Brighton Crescent	Railing reinstatement	£1724	£862
16 Straiton Place	Railing reinstatement	£260	£130

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2007-2008

Property	Type of work	Total grant	CEC share
16 Bath Street	Railing reinstatement	£1000	£500
20 Bath Street	Paint removal from front elevation	£2056.25	£1142
24 Bath Street	Window reinstatement	£1120	£560
60 Bath Street	Window restoration	£2827	£1413
2 Bellfield Street	Window restoration	£3000	£1500
10 John Street	Window restoration and reinstatement	£3000	£1500
5/1 Lee Crescent	Window reinstatement	£3000	£1500
14 Lee Crescent	Window restoration	£594	£297
28 Lee Crescent	Window restoration	£3000	£1500
16/1 Marlborough Street	Window restoration	£470	£231
16/2 Marlborough Street	Window restoration	£1034	£517
1/1 Mentone Avenue	Window restoration	£1353	£676
38 Morton Street	Window refurbishment	£2559	£1280
270 Portobello High Street	Stonework repair	£2258	£1129
8 Pittville Street	Railing reinstatement	£2210	£1105
14 Pittville Street	Stonework paint removal	£2931.63	£1466
22 Regent Street	Railing reinstatement	£2098	£1049
3 Rosefield Street	Windows restoration	£1183	£591
3 West Brighton Crescent	Window reinstatement	£1440	£720
5 West Brighton Crescent	Stone wall repair and railing reinstatement	£3000	£1500
8 West Brighton Crescent	Railing reinstatement	£3000	£1500
43 Windsor Place	Window restoration	£1439	£720
9 John Street	Railing reinstatement	£1849	£925
9A John Street	Railing reinstatement	£419	£210
11 John Street	Railing reinstatement	£1312	£656
11 Bath Street	Railing reinstatement	£2896	£1448
4 Straiton Place	Reinstate slate roof	£3000	£1500

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2006-2007

Property	Type of work	Total grant	CEC share
3/6 Pipe Street	Window restoration	£2090	£1045
14 Straiton Place	Door restoration	£730	£365
7 East Brighton Crescent	Window restoration	£2050	£1025
240 Portobello High Street	Stone repairs	£2196	£1098
18 Straiton Place	Window restoration	£2430	£1215
24 Straiton Place	Window restoration	£670	£335
49 Marlborough Street	Window reinstatement	£1838	£919
26/4 Promenade	Window restoration	£360	£180
270/2 Portobello High Street	Stone repairs	£3000	£1500
26 Regent Street	Railing reinstatement	£680	£340
4 Bellfield Street	Railing reinstatement	£786	£393
21 Bath Street	Window restoration	£2334	£1167
8 Brighton Place	Window reinstatement	£2152	£1076
26/6 Promenade	Window restoration	£430	£215
26 Brighton Place	Window restoration	£900	£450
4 Lee Crescent	Window restoration	£486	£243
2 James Street	Railing reinstatement	£3000	£1500
6 West Brighton Crescent	Railing restoration	£2640	£1320
3 Lee Crescent	Window reinstatement	£2622	£1311
13 Regent Street	Window restoration	£2714	£1357
192/4 Portobello High Street	Window restoration	£310	£155

3. A list of works that may be considered under the scheme and details of how often this list is reviewed

Please note that the scheme is no longer running, so at the present time no types of work are grant-eligible.

While it operated, the Portobello Town Scheme funded restoration and reinstatement work using traditional methods and materials to properties within the Portobello Conservation Area. The Scheme was jointly run between the City of Edinburgh Council and Historic Scotland. The principles under which the Portobello Town Scheme operated were agreed at the outset with Historic

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Scotland (in line with their nationwide criteria for this type of grant scheme). Each application received was assessed on its own merits and the list below indicates some examples of work that was eligible for funding. This list is not exhaustive:

- Timber sash and case windows with the original astragal pattern;
- Correctly detailed panelled doors;
- Cast iron railings and gates in the original pattern.
- Removal of render/paint applied to original stone or brick frontages

There was no regular review of the grant criteria. Issues were discussed with Historic Scotland as they arose, and if necessary suitable amendments were made.

4. (a) The number of successful and unsuccessful applications under the scheme over the last 3 years
(b) with a breakdown of reasons for the application being unsuccessful if possible

- a) We do not have a complete record of applications which have been refused in the last 3 years of the scheme, and under Regulation 10(4)(a), this section of your request is being refused.
- b) In many cases, applicants contacted the Council prior to submitting an application, and would be advised at that stage if their proposals were not grant-eligible. This meant that we did not receive high numbers of formal applications for proposals that were not grant-eligible.

However, the main reasons funding was not granted were:

(i) Proposed works being ineligible for funding. Ineligible works included:

- internal repairs/restoration;
- general maintenance such as roof repairs, treatment of wet/dry rot, damp proofing;
- double glazing;
- repairs in modern materials,
- the introduction of historically inaccurate features;
- stonecleaning

- (ii) Proposed works being eligible for funding, but all funding for that relevant financial year being already allocated (in these cases applications were put on a waiting list for the following financial year).

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- (iii) Proposed works being eligible for funding, but the applicant decided not to progress with the application.

As an example, in 2008-2009, 26 grants were awarded and we have record of 14 applications which were not awarded grants (note that this may not be exhaustive). Of these 14, two were not grant-eligible, 11 were not progressed by the applicant, and one no information is given.

It should be noted that subject to funding being available, applications which met the criteria of the grant scheme were not refused.

5. a) The average time taken from application to the award of a grant and b) if any waiting list exists

- a) We do not have records of the average time that was taken from applications being submitted to grants being awarded. Locating, retrieving and providing this information would take in the region of three days work, and in accordance with Regulation 8, would require a fee of £300. I enclose below information on the process undertaken, which may provide you with sufficient information for your purposes. If you require the full details, please send a cheque for the required amount, made payable to 'The City of Edinburgh Council', to the Freedom of Information team at the address below.

You should note that the Council need not provide any information until payment is received and this must be within 60 working days of the issue of this notice. The Council will issue no further correspondence requesting this fee. In the event of the fee not being received within the allowable period, this request will be closed. The issue of this Fees Notice has the effect of "stopping the clock", in terms of the requirement to meet the request in 20 working days. However, it does not return the clock to zero. Once the fee is received the clock will resume ticking.

The time taken from application to the awarding of a grant depended very much on the circumstances of the particular case, such as whether the application contained all the required information, and whether it had to go on a waiting list for the following financial year when more funds would be available.

The process for offering and awarding grants was:

- (i) Checking the application was valid. (If the application was not valid, requesting additional required information from the applicant.)
- (ii) Assessing whether the proposal was grant eligible. (If the works were eligible and there was no funding available, advising the applicant that their application had been put on a waiting list).

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- (iii) Where necessary, undertaking a site visit to view the area of proposed works.
- (iv) If the works were eligible and funding was available, making a formal recommendation to Historic Scotland that a grant be offered towards the works.
- (v) Upon receipt of confirmation from Historic Scotland, sending a grant offer letter to the applicant.
- (vi) The applicant confirming that they wished to accept the grant offer.
- (vii) The applicant arranging for the work to be carried out and notifying the Council once it was complete.
- (viii) Following completion of the works, carrying out a site visit to inspect that works complied with the conditions of grant.
- (ix) Receipt of a completed invoice from the contractor, confirming that the cost of the works had been paid in full.
- (x) Sending a check for the grant sum to the applicant.

b) As the Portobello Town Scheme is no longer running, there is currently no waiting list.

If you require further information please contact us on Tel: 0131 200 2340, Fax: 0131 200 2341, or e-mail: xxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.uk Further information on the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) 2002 and associated legislation can be obtained by visiting www.edinburgh.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Will Garrett
Group Leader, Built & Natural Heritage

Note: If you are not happy with this response, or want to complain about the way in which we handled your application, please write to the Head of Legal & Administrative Services, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG. If you wish to take up this option you should generally do so within 40 working days of receipt of this response.

If, after you have received a reply from the Director of Corporate Services, you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

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Scottish Information Commissioner

Kinburn Castle

Doubledykes Road

St Andrews

Fife

KY16 9DS

Phone: 01334 464610, Fax: 01334 464611, E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

If you wish to take up this option you should generally do so within 6 months of receipt of the response from the Director of Corporate Services.

For further information please phone us on 0131 200 2340 or visit our website at http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/707/freedom_of_information.

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