
REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 10

**DATE OF
MEETING:** 4 OCTOBER 2001

CATEGORY:
DELEGATED

REPORT FROM: SANDRA WHILES

**OPEN
PARAGRAPH NO:** N/A

**MEMBERS'
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SUBJECT: PROPOSED RENOVATION GRANT
ADMINISTRATION CHANGES

REF: MEA/LJW

**WARD(S)
AFFECTED:** ALL

**TERMS OF
REFERENCE:** CS7

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That all Renovation Grant applications over £20,000 be approved by the Divisional Environmental Health Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Community Services Committee.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To streamline the approval of Renovation Grants to enable the quicker approval of them and achieve expenditure of allocated monies during the relevant financial year.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Currently Renovation Grants with works costing over £15,000 are reported to Committee for approval. Renovation Grants over £20,000 of the works are reported to Committee with an assessment using the Government's formula known as "The Most Satisfactory Course of Action Assessment".

3.2 Government advice states that for grants over £20,000, formula should be applied.

3.3 Renovation Grants, by their very nature, take a long time to approve from the initial survey and final approval due to the complexities of proving Certificate of Title, obtaining two quotes and obtaining Committee approval for the two differing sums. It is therefore suggested that Members allow the Divisional Environmental Health Officer to approve Renovation Grants up to a limit of £20,000. For grants above £20,000 a most satisfactory course of action, assessment should be carried out and the findings determined by the Divisional Environmental Health Manager and Chair and Vice-Chair of Community Services Committee.

3.4 Once approved, home owners have 12 months in which to complete the renovation works.

3.5 Any capital housing monies not spent within the financial year of our allocation are lost. It is therefore important to streamline administration procedures.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Renovation Grants are financed out of the Government allotted capital monies.
- 4.2 The Committee approved allocation for Renovation Grants for this financial year is £400,000.

5.0 Community Implications

- 5.1 Renovation Grants bring unfit/empty properties to a fit standard for habitation and help to regenerate areas of the district. The more grants that can be processed and completed within a financial year, the quicker areas can be regenerated.

6.0 Background Papers

- 6.1 Private Sector Renewal, a Strategic Approach, 5 December 1996, Circular 17/96.