

HERITAGE GRANTS AND COVENANTS COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY 5 AUGUST 2010

AT 1PM

IN THE NO. 3 COMMITTEE ROOM, CIVIC OFFICES

Elected Member Representation:	Councillor Helen Broughton (Chair), Councillors Barry Corbett, David Cox, Claudia Reid and Mike Wall.
Staff Representation:	Michael Theelen, Carolyn Ingles, Neil Carrie, Robert O'Connor.
General Manager Responsible:	Mike Theelen Telephone: 941-8281
Committee Adviser:	Warren Brixton Telephone: 941-8439

TOPICS

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. DELEGATIONS**
- 3. HERITAGE GRANT APPROVAL – 4 AND 6 NEW REGENT STREET, CHRISTCHURCH**

5. 8. 2010

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1. APOLOGIES

2. DELEGATIONS

3. HERITAGE GRANT APPROVAL – 4 & 6 NEW REGENT STREET, CHRISTCHURCH

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Strategy and Planning Group, DDI: 941-8281
Officer responsible:	Programme Manager, Liveable City
Author:	Brendan Smyth, Heritage, Architecture and Urban Design

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for a Heritage Incentive Grant for Numbers 4 and 6 New Regent Street, Christchurch.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Numbers 4 and 6 New Regent Street are two of the original mid-street units of the New Regent Street shops now combined into one retail unit, Paul Dunlop Optometrists. The whole of New Regent Street was designed by the architect Francis Willis and built in 1931 (refer to the Statement of Heritage Significance, **Attachment 1**).
3. The two storey units are located towards the south-eastern end of New Regent Street with number 4 being adjacent to the alleyway that runs around the back of the units on the east side of the street. The retail space was originally two separate units but has been combined into one. The staircase to number 6 has been removed and an opening has been created in the party wall to link the two downstairs shop spaces. However, both of the original entrance doorways have been retained on the street frontage and most of the original tile work below the verandah is still in place and in good condition. Upstairs the two originally separate spaces have also been linked by the creation of an opening in the original brick party wall.
4. Similar to the structure elsewhere on the New Regent Street shops, numbers 4 and 6 New Regent Street have a concrete frame structure with infill panels of cavity and/or solid brickwork. All of the street facades are plastered or tiled. The other parts of the building are not plastered and the structural frame, lintels and the brickwork are clearly visible. While the concrete frame will prevent the building being classed as earthquake prone, the brickwork panels do require new cavity wall ties to improve their structural performance.
5. Number 6 New Regent Street has an ornate parapet at roof level while number 4 has one of the roof level concrete 'eyelids' which would have originally held genuine 'Spanish' style clay tiles. These relatively heavy tiles were later removed to prevent them falling into the street below. The upper walls were originally rendered with coloured decorative plaster and designed in a 'Spanish Mission' style more usually associated with Southern California. These parts of the building were first painted in the 1960's and then again in the 1980's. The building has a suspended verandah and below this the shop-front walls are tiled with the original decorative coloured tiling. Many of the other shop fronts of the street have lost this lower shop-front tiling. The shop windows and entrance doors at numbers 4 and 6 still have the original stained timber finish.
6. New Regent Street is registered Category 1 with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga (NZHPT). All of the original 1931 shop buildings of New Regent Street, including numbers 4 and 6, are listed Group 2 in the Christchurch City Council's City Plan.
7. The work that the applicant is seeking grant support for will ensure the future protection and continuing use of this significant heritage building. The application meets all the criteria for a grant as provided in the Heritage Incentive Grants Policy – Operational Guidelines.
8. The building has not been the subject of a previous Heritage Incentive Grant from the Council. The building is owned by 'Espala Properties Ltd'. This is the second application for a grant that relates specifically to the New Regent Street Revitalisation Project and others are expected to follow shortly. The aim of this project is the revitalisation of the entire street by 2014, a level of service in the 2009-19 LTCCP. The proposed work has received resource consent under RMA 92014997, an application prepared and submitted by Council staff to facilitate conservation and maintenance work in the street.

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SCOPE OF WORK

9. A summary of conservation and maintenance works include:
- (a) Installation of replacement cavity wall ties to improve structural performance, including scaffolding and coloured mortar finish to brickwork;
 - (b) Repairs to plaster facades, full preparation and repaint; and
 - (c) Tile repairs where required.
10. Costs for conservation, including code compliance and maintenance works are outlined in the table below:

Particulars	Costs
Installation of 'Thor Helical' cavity wall ties, south, west & east walls and repairs to plastered façade (south and west walls).	\$16,128
Repainting of plastered east façade and repairs to shop-front tiles.	\$13,008
Total of conservation and restoration related work	\$29,136

HERITAGE INCENTIVE GRANTS POLICY

11. The Operational Guidelines for the Policy provide for a grant of up to 40 per cent of the total heritage related costs for a Group 2 heritage building.

Proposed Heritage Grant (40%)	\$11,654
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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12.

	2010/11
Annual Budget	\$763,684
Commitment from previous year (St Paul's Presbyterian Church)	\$141,920
Total Grant funds committed year to date	\$103,527
Balance of 10/11 funds	\$518,237
Fund approval for 4 and 6 New Regent Street	\$11,654
Total Available Funds 2010/11	\$506,583

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

13. Yes. The Heritage Incentive Grant budget is an annual fund provided for in the 2009-19 LTCCP.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

14. Limited Conservation Covenants are required under the Heritage Conservation Policy for properties receiving Heritage Incentive Grants of \$5,000 to \$49,999. A Full Conservation Covenant is required for grants of \$50,000 or more. A minimum of a Limited Conservation Covenant is therefore required for this grant to be uplifted.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

15. Yes. Covenants are a more comprehensive form of protection of the buildings because they are registered against the property title, ensuring that the Council's investment is protected.

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ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

16. The Heritage Incentive Grants Scheme is aligned to the Community Outcome 'An attractive and well-designed City' (LTCCP 2009-19, page 50). 'Community Outcome 9. Development' provides for, among other things, ensuring "our lifestyles and heritage are enhanced by our urban environment" (page 54). One of the success measure is that "Our heritage is protected for future generations" (page 54). *"Progress will be measured using these headline indicators ... number of heritage buildings, sites and objects."* (page 54). Heritage Incentive Grants contribute towards the number of protected heritage buildings, sites and objects, which is the measure under the outcome.
17. Within the 'Activities and Services' section of the LTCCP, is 'City planning and development' which aims to help improve Christchurch's urban environment, among other things. One of the activities included in 'City planning and development' is 'Heritage protection'. "A city's heritage helps to sustain a sense of community identity, provides links to the past, and helps to attract visitors. The Council is committed to protecting the heritage of our city and works with developers, landowners and other stakeholders to conserve heritage buildings, areas and other items" (page 187).
18. 'Heritage Protection', requires the Council to "Research and promote the heritage of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. Work with developers, landowners and other stakeholders to conserve heritage areas, buildings, and other items. Promote development that is sensitive to the character and heritage of the city and existing communities" (page 192). The Council provides information, advice and funding for city heritage and heritage conservation, and will be expected to continue to do so, as part of its objective to retain heritage items. The 'Heritage Protection' Activity Management Plan identifies proactive partnerships with listed heritage building owners as a performance standard, the upgrade of the New Regent Street buildings by 2014 is identified as a level of service.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

19. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

20. Alignment of the requirement for Heritage Incentive Grants and Conservation Covenants stems from the Heritage Conservation Policy which in turn is relevant to:

Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS)

Heritage development projects provide opportunities for increased commercial and residential activity in the City while at the same time enhancing the heritage townscape. The UDS considers heritage as an integral part of Christchurch and an aspect of growth management provided for is through the protection, maintenance and enhancement of heritage.

Christchurch City Plan

Heritage redevelopment projects are consistent with the Heritage provisions of the City Plan: Volume 2, Section 4, City Identity, Objective 4.3 Heritage Protection provides for objectives and policies in relation to Heritage protection. It recognises that Christchurch is a cultural and tourist centre, a role mainly dependent on its architectural, historic and scenic attractions. Much of its distinctive character is derived from buildings, natural features, other places and objects which have over time, become an accepted part of the cityscape and valued features of the City's identity ... Protection of heritage places includes cultural, architectural, ... areas of character, intrinsic or amenity value, visual appeal or of special significance to the Tangata Whenua, for spiritual, cultural or historical reasons. This protection may extend to include land around that place or feature to ensure its protection and reasonable enjoyment. A heritage item may include land, sites, areas, buildings, monuments, objects, archaeological sites, sacred sites, landscape or ecological features in public or private ownership.

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Central City Revitalisation Strategy

Inner city heritage improvement projects are consistent with the vision for the Central City to cultivate a distinct identity that is unique to the city's environment and culture. This strategy places particular emphasis on the heritage of our Central City. The Christchurch Central City contains over half of the city's entire heritage assets.

New Zealand Urban Design Protocol

Heritage projects improve the quality and design of the urban environment by protecting the heritage of the city, which is stated in the Protocol as being an attribute of successful towns and cities. The Limited Covenants will contribute towards the implementation of the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol of March 2005 of which the Council is a signatory body.

Heritage Conservation Policy

The Heritage Incentive Grants are provided for under section 8 of the Heritage Conservation Policy. As noted above under the LTCCP heading, the Heritage Conservation Policy aligns with the Community Outcome "An attractive and well-designed City" through the indicator "Number of heritage buildings, sites and objects".

The Heritage Grants Policy is aligned with the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter 1993 for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value, which the Council has adopted. The concept of places incorporates landscape, buildings, archaeological sites, sacred places, gardens and other objects. ICOMOS considers that countries have a "general responsibility towards humanity" to safeguard their heritage for present and future generations.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

21. Yes

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

22. There is no requirement for community consultation for Heritage Incentive Grants or Covenants.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Heritage Grants and Covenants Committee approve:

- (a) A Heritage Incentive Grant of up to **\$11,654** for conservation and maintenance work for the protected heritage building at 4 and 6 New Regent Street subject to compliance with the agreed scope of works and certification of the works upon completion.
- (b) That payment of this grant is subject to the applicants entering a 10 year Limited Conservation Covenant with the signed covenant having the Council seal affixed prior to registration against the property title.