

Item 11 – Appendix 3

Options	Benefits	Disadvantages
1. Leave the present system of Historic Buildings Joint Committees and a separate Historic Building Renovation grant unaltered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely retention of financial support from Town Councils. • Continuation of successful schemes in Warminster, Trowbridge, Melksham and Bradford. • Technical assistance from external architects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • based on a dated system and constitution first established by the County Council • Overly bureaucratic and time consuming in staff resources for administration purposes. • Potentially up to two meetings a year for each of the four joint committees. • Provision of officers from accountants and committee clerk at each meeting. • Not necessarily focusing on the most needy buildings at risk within the District. • Little opportunity for external financial partnerships available outside of the 4 towns.
2. Amalgamate all grants into a single Historic Building Advisory Committee with representatives from both Town and Districts invited on to consider grants on a District wide basis under new constitutional terms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be able to consider grant applications from all parts of the District • All applications could be considered at one or two centralised meetings annually. • Ability to focus on the most needy cases of historic buildings through the centralised Buildings at Risk register. • Potentially a larger sum of money to allocate to projects. • All historic building owners potentially have the right to be considered for grant assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of towns withdrawing financial assistance. • Could still be seen as bureaucratic in its operation • Likely removal external technical support for conservation officer • Concern that Town Councils may set up independent grant systems and operate without input from WWDC.
3. Abolish present system and simplify system by providing District Council finance through delegated powers of the conservation officer towards appropriately eligible building projects primarily targeting the Buildings at Risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More proactive and easier to administrate. • No delay for decision making on individual application cases. • More efficient in focusing in on the most appropriate cases for funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to loose financial assistance from town councils • Could be seen as not accountable or transparent enough. • No assistance from others with potential need for more staff/resources. • Concern that Town Councils may set up independent grant systems and operate without input from WWDC.
4. Remove grant budgets in totality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will save money; in the region of £40,000 is allocated each year to the 4 joint committees with a further £5,000 for the separate grant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less ability to manage and control repair works on historic buildings. • Fewer opportunities to reduce buildings at risk register. • Harder to finance Urgent Works Notices and Repairs Notices. • Difficulty for conservation officer to perform holistic and strategic management role towards the historic environment.
5. Retain individual HBJCs where match-funding by each partnership can be achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely retention of financial support from Town Councils. • Westbury given opportunity to enter partnership with Warminster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could still be considered to be bureaucratic and time consuming in terms of staff resources for administration purposes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of successful schemes in historic towns but with more emphasis on Buildings at Risk. • Retain technical assistance from external architects. • Readjust criteria of HBJCs to come in line with identifying the most at risk buildings in their areas and concentrate on ensuring these buildings come forward for repairs and regeneration. The upgrading of each HBJC constitution may need to be undertaken to include new criteria. • Investigate the possibility of the towns taking over the administration of the HBJCs. • Potential to free up more money available to the rural areas for buildings at risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially up to two meetings a year for each HBJC.
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