

Minor Repairs and Improvements Application Guide

Minor Repairs and Improvements (MR&I)

The Diocese of Winchester has secured a small pot of grant funding from the Church of England's Minor Repairs and Improvements (MR&I) Grant Fund.

Applications can be submitted by parishes for projects totalling up to £20,000 that focus on urgent repairs and small-scale improvements which are essential to sustaining worship and mission. Amounts awarded will be based on deprivation and other factors.

This project aims to give priority to areas which lack access to support for Church of England church buildings. It also aims to address need and therefore, churches in areas of demonstrable need will be prioritised.

Eligibility

Eligible buildings

Church of England consecrated church buildings and licensed places of worship. The 'building' extends to its below-ground drainage system, foundations and immediate curtilage.

Ineligible buildings

Other buildings or structures in the churchyard or curtilage of eligible buildings which are not in ecclesiastical use. Cathedrals; churches and chapels which are the responsibility of private owners or institutions; non-Anglican places of worship; closed and closing churches.

Eligible work

Minor repairs
Repair of building fabric (external): roof coverings, roof structure, walls, parapets, pinnacles and other architectural features, towers, spires, windows, doors, rainwater disposal system including below-ground drainage.
Repair of building fabric (internal): ceilings, floors, doors, walls and wall linings (plaster/panelling but not wall paintings, mosaics etc).
Repair of building services installations where essential for health and safety and/or continuity of worship and mission use. Emergency repairs or holding works, e.g. propping, covering, protection etc.

To be eligible, any such work must be recommended in the most recent QI report (or subsequent professional report or condition survey etc). Work classified as urgent (either category 1 - Urgent, requiring immediate attention; 2 - Requires attention within

12 months; or 3 - Requires attention within the next 12 - 24 months) should take priority but any work required within the quinquennium is eligible. Works of differing urgency within that definition may be undertaken together for the sake of efficiency and economy, especially where 'stitch in time' repairs can save money in the long term.

Improvements

Additions, alterations or adaptations specifically to overcome building design defects or obsolescence (e.g. undersized hoppers or drainpipes) or to improve access for maintenance. Additions, alterations or adaptations where essential to improve physical access, e.g. handrails, ramps etc. Improvements to building services installations where essential to sustain worship and mission use, such as improvements to heating, lighting, wiring, kitchens, WCs. Where necessary, this might include the installation or upgrading of pipework or cabling to the perimeter of the churchyard or curtilage. New installations or improvements to existing installations for digital connectivity, whether through a wired connection or 4G/5G mobile Wi-Fi, where essential to sustain worship and mission use. Bat mitigation measures, including relevant ecologists' fees and production of a bat management plan, where the impact of bats is a barrier to worship and mission use. A one off deep clean can be an eligible cost as part of a mitigation plan.

Other eligible costs

Professional fees to design, specify, inspect and certify the repair or improvement work. Ecologist's fees to prepare a bat management plan. VAT (for unlisted churches and work to listed churches which falls outside the eligibility of the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) grant scheme). It will be assumed that PCCs will apply to the LPW grant scheme wherever possible.

Ineligible work

Routine maintenance, as exemplified below:

Routine cleaning. Work to furnishings, such as bells and bell frames, books and manuscripts, church plate, clocks, monumental brasses and decorative metalwork, monuments, organs, paintings and wall paintings, stained glass, textiles, wooden objects. Conservation reports. Routine inspection (Quinquennial Inspections, periodic inspection of electrical installations, appliance testing, gas safety checks, etc). Routine servicing of building services installations. Any work covered by insurance.

How to Apply

Parishes can apply here: <https://forms.office.com/e/H4Z2x1reSB>

It is essential to have had a conversation with the DAC to apply for this grant:

Libby Davis – libby.davis@winchester.anglican.org;

Richard Streatfield – richard.streatfield@winchester.anglican.org;

Sarah Feltham – sarah.feltham@winchester.anglican.org

Grants will be awarded upon completion of the works, by the Diocese from monies provided by the national church. Projects must be completed within 12 months.