

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND: GRANT FUNDING - FUTURE DIRECTION AND PRIORITIES

Grant support from Historic Scotland is currently provided on behalf of the Scottish Government (SG) and this will continue once the organisation has completed the transition to become Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

While the activities of HES will be primarily directed by the organisations Corporate Plan and the Scottish Historic Environment Strategy, the criteria for the provision of grant support will be directed principally by Scottish Government priorities which are guided by Scotland's Economic Strategy.

Therefore, as well as HES's traditional priorities on preserving elements of the historic environment, applications for grant assistance will be considered against how the projects deliver against SG priorities identified in the economic strategy.

Given the continuing heavy demand for grant assistance, it has become increasingly important that applications for assistance illustrate a robust 'business model' that demonstrates a viable and sustainable future for the building and the proposed business that will be developed around it.

This document is intended to précis those areas of the economic strategy that that it is felt are likely to be drivers and outputs from projects applying for HES's principal support streams; Historic Building Repair Grant and Conservation Area Regeneration Schemes.

1. Investing in our People, Infrastructure and Assets

- *Invest in Scotland's people at all stages of life to ensure that we have a healthy and resilient population and an innovative, engaged and productive workforce.*
- *Invest in Scotland's infrastructure to help Scottish business to grow, innovate and create good quality employment opportunities.*
- *Invest in strengthening the success and resilience of local communities.*
- *Support the development of highly innovative businesses across the Scottish Economy.*

2. To Promote Inclusive Growth

- *Promote Fair Work and build a labour market that provides sustainable and well-paid jobs.*
- *Realise opportunities across Scotland's cities, towns and rural areas, capitalising upon local knowledge and resources to deliver more equal growth across the country.*
- *Create the underlying conditions, which will continue to make Scotland a major destination for investment.*

3. Four Priorities

- *An economy where growth is underpinned by long term sustainable investment in people, infrastructure and assets.*
- *To reach our ambition the SG will target economic policies to our competitive strengths whilst also supporting growth across the wider economy and communities. This will involve a greater focus on strengthening and developing the skills of all our people and local economies. Promoting innovation, skills and training and international ambitions across the Scottish economy.*
- *The SG will also support the important role that organisations across Scotland have-whether voluntary organisations, third sector partners, or through informal relationships-which together empower local communities and underpin the structures which many individuals rely on to participate in society.*
- *The SG will also protect and enhance our natural capital, our brand reputation as a country of outstanding natural beauty, our commitment to low carbon and the opportunities our resources and assets provide for our economy and future generations.*

4. Regional Inequalities

- *Ensuring that all regions and communities can prosper is important for both overall economic performance and ensuring that all areas have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.*

5. Youth Employment

- *Youth employment outcomes have important implications in terms of competitiveness and reducing inequality. The SG target is to reduce youth unemployment by 40% by 2021.*

6. Education Skills and Health

- *An individual's health and skill level has a direct impact on their wellbeing and prospects for employment and income. At an economy-wide level, education and skills play an important role in enabling our companies to grow and become successful.*
- *Going forward, SG investment in the human capital-education, skills and health-of the people of Scotland will be a central focus of the actions to deliver this economic strategy.*

7. Infrastructure and Digital

- *Infrastructure investment attracts business investment, stimulates economic activity and deepens access to the labour market. Physical and digital*

infrastructure improves connectivity, helping our cities, towns and regions to drive growth and to compete internationally.

8. Communities, Local Assets & Housing

- *Working with the people and communities of Scotland to deliver the best possible outcomes is at the heart of how we will invest in, and support, local areas as part of this Economic Strategy. Building the resilience and capabilities of individuals, families and communities, and enabling people to actively shape and assist with the design and delivery of services they use, are two fundamental principles.*
- *We are acting to catalyse local level investment including regeneration in our most disadvantaged communities, bringing empty town centre properties back into use as affordable housing, with investments in housing and communities to improve local amenities and build strong and sustainable communities.*
- *We want to ensure that more of the money we spend is directed by communities themselves – by the individuals and organisations who know best how to tackle poverty and inequality and harness the energy of local people.*
- *The Community Empowerment Bill will give communities more opportunities to make a difference on their own terms, by creating new rights for community bodies, placing new duties on public authorities, making it easier for communities to take on public sector land and buildings, and extending the community 'Right to Buy' to the whole of Scotland.*
- *We have committed to giving island and coastal communities 100% of the net revenues from Crown Estate assets in the waters adjacent to their coast and we will work with local authorities and other stakeholders to develop a framework for greater local involvement in the management of these assets.*

9. Workplace Innovation and Digital

- *It is therefore important that we continue to invest in digital skills to meet the needs of the modern economy. The application of digital technologies across a range of fields from robotics, to medicine, data, printing and communications also has the potential to significantly alter how the economy functions and provides an opportunity for Scotland to drive change given our strengths in this area.*

10. Applicants are also open to identify other target areas of the Economic Strategy that they feel better reflects the aims and objectives of their project and we would, of course, be happy to discuss this with them. Other elements of the strategy include; strengthening international links and business innovation, the [full document can be viewed here](#).