

Heritage Lottery Fund Supplementary Briefing

July 2014

The Heritage Alliance

About the Heritage Alliance

The Heritage Alliance is a non-government organisation and the voice of the independent heritage movement.

The Heritage Alliance is the largest coalition of heritage interests in England. The Heritage Alliance represents over 90 Member organisations – major national and regional non-Government organisations- which are in turn supported by over 6.3 million members, volunteers, Trustees and staff. Together its members own, manage, and care for the vast majority of England's historic environment.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has transformed the way we care for our heritage. We call on all political parties to build on the positive return to a 20% share of National Lottery funding for HLF, and to explore opportunities to enhance that still further to meet emerging needs.

The Heritage Alliance Manifesto 2014/15

What is the Heritage Alliance asking for?

The Heritage Alliance is calling on all political parties to support heritage as one of the 'good causes' funded by the National Lottery and to maintain its share at at least 20%. We also ask that the Government should not view HLF funding as a substitute for Government spending following the immense cuts in grants to the heritage sector.

In meeting emerging needs, we ask all political parties to explore opportunities to build on HLF's achievements, respecting that HLF's investment priorities should be set independently and by public consultation.

Why are we asking for this?

In April 2012, Government restored the shares of Lottery Funding for the arts, heritage and sport good causes' from 16.7% to 20%, a positive return that is very welcome. It is vital to the future of our heritage that Government continues to support heritage as one of the 'good causes' and to explore ways in which its support can be enhanced.

Reductions in Government spending, however, means that there is around £700 million a year less public investment in heritage across the UK. These cuts in Government spending are not matched by the increase in the Heritage Lottery Fund share yet the pressure on HLF to compensate for national and local public spending cuts is immense.

We welcome the way in which the Heritage Lottery Fund has adapted its grant programmes to nurture innovation, build skills and stimulate new activity. Creating a framework rather than a strategic plan for 2013-18 after extensive public consultation, HLF has responded to emerging challenges, retaining open programmes but developing targeted interventions focussed on areas of urgent need.

HLF has a grant budget for 2014-15 of £375m compared with £180m in 2009, affording it huge influence and responsibility. The HLF, powerful as it, is not a panacea:

- There are groups ineligible for the Heritage Lottery Fund. Some faith groups, objecting to gambling, rule themselves out on moral grounds.
- Significantly, a very large number of private owners who are responsible for two thirds of our built heritage are ineligible for HLF programmes. Yet these heritage assets have a public value beyond the interests of private individuals both for the wider community and for future generations.
- Although government grants are much reduced, these apply potent leverage, playing a significant role in attracting funding from other sources. Government funding, through fiscal policy and the grants administered through English Heritage/Historic England should be maintained in principle to underpin government commitment to our heritage and in recognition that HLF resources are not open to all.

HLF's priorities, partnerships and its place in the wider financial landscape are of utmost importance. HLF is a 'non-departmental public body'. As such, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport issues financial and policy directions but decisions about individual applications and policies should be entirely independent of the Government. In seeking opportunities to enhance the HLF's role, this principle needs to be upheld.

Background

The Heritage Lottery Fund is administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) which was given the responsibility of distributing a share of money raised through the National Lottery for Good Causes, to heritage across the UK, in 1994. It is a non-departmental public body accountable to Parliament via the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, HLF now invests £375m per year in new projects relating to museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions. Since 1994, HLF has supported over 36,500 projects allocating more than £6billion across the UK. In doing so, it has amassed a considerable body of knowledge and is a leading advocate for the value of heritage to modern life.

New departures include more emphasis on capacity building (Skills for the Future, the Catalyst programmes), limited support to private owners as long as public benefit far outweighs private gain; and the Heritage Enterprise programme aimed to generate sustainable end-uses for historic buildings and sites in areas experience economic disadvantage.

Useful resources and websites

- Heritage Lottery Fund website www.HLF.org.uk
- National Heritage Memorial Fund <http://www.nhmf.org.uk/>
- HLF Strategic Framework <http://www.hlf.org.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/Pages/StrategicFramework2013to2018.aspx#.U8Z0ivldURo>
- Culture Media and Sport Select Committee Report on Funding of the Arts & Heritage 2011 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmcmds/464/464i.pdf>
- Heritage Counts 2013 <http://hc.english-heritage.org.uk/>

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