



Prioritisation of Heritage Lottery Projects in Derby

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 HLF is working within a Strategic Plan, which runs to 2007. This will probably be extended to at least 2008. It currently has around £10 million a year to spend at the discretion of the East Midlands office on projects worth up to £2m each in the region. At the end of this strategic planning period, no-one can be certain about the size of the HLF's purse, as the impact of the London Olympics is expected to be felt during 2009-2012.

Bids worth more than £2m are considered by the HLF national Trustees in conjunction with the Regional Office. Grants against these bids are made from national funds. Bids worth more than £5m are dealt with in London. These bids compete with Stonehenge, the British Museum and other projects of international standing.

- 1.2 Officers maintain constant contact with the regional office of the Heritage Lottery Fund to make sure that we make best use of opportunities which may arise. Latterly, discussions have focused on a scheme to revitalise the Silk Mill Museum. HLF are enthusiastic about this project but has said that it will require evidence that the city has clearly assessed its priorities for development of the built heritage before any serious bids can be considered.
- 1.3 HLF has made it clear that the scope of this prioritisation must be across Derby, not just Museums, and not just the public sector. Priority ratings must therefore be assigned by Derby City Partnership before they can be submitted to HLF. The DCP Strategic Co-ordination Group may assume that role.
- 1.4 To qualify for a grant projects must:

- conserve and enhance our diverse heritage
- encourage more people to be involved in their heritage

or both of these.

In addition every project must make sure that everyone can learn about, have access to and enjoy their heritage.

- 1.5 A prioritisation of this kind is bound to be contentious as it implies choices about possible investment in valuable heritage assets. The process, agreed with DCP, has been to:

- Use the DCP full database to alert people throughout Derby that a prioritisation process is under way
- Ask sponsors of all prospective contenders to contact a central point to register an interest. The office of the Assistant Director of Cultural Services has been used for this purpose.
- The results showed that there are three contenders for major HLF investment and all of them are in the ownership of the City Council. They are:
 - a) The Railway Roundhouse
 - b) The Silk Mill Museum
 - c) Saint Helen's House

- 1.6 An officer working group was created in November 2004 to co-ordinate planning for that part of the World Heritage Site within Derby's boundaries. The group is currently working on a bid to the Big Lottery Living Landmarks stream on the theme of the River Derwent from Darley Abbey Mills to the Railway Station. In parallel with this, the Museums Service is drawing up a plan to revitalise the Silk Mill Museum as the Museum of Derby and as a gateway to the World Heritage Site. These two bids constitute an important heritage-led development for the City Centre. The Silk Mill is a grade II listed building, and it is well placed to attract HLF investment
- 1.7 The Railway Roundhouse has been the focus of intense interest from Derby College, who have concluded that it could become the centrepiece for a vocational training facility. The funding package needs an input from the HLF if it is to succeed, but the project is well on the way towards RIBA Design Stage C, and could be initiated quickly when funds allow. The impact of a training centre on the skills base of Derby people would be very significant in terms of employment prospects. The Roundhouse is a grade II* listed building.
- 1.8 Saint Helen's House is not part of the World Heritage Site although it is in the "buffer zone". As such it would merit a lower priority than the Silk Mill proposal. The effect of putting Saint Helen's House after the WHS package on the priority list would be to eliminate its chances of achieving significant HLF funding in the immediate future. The Council would want to give Saint Helen's House the very best chance of finding funding for reinstatement and for a secure future: it is a grade 1 listed building officially at risk.
- 1.9 An initial feasibility study has been completed for Saint Helen's House. The outline costings for Saint Helen's House are £4.75m to restore the buildings, with a further £1.3m to conversion costs, dependent on future use and extent of disposals, if any. The Trust has indicated that it will need English Heritage /HLF grant funding of between £2m and £3m again dependent on future use and extent of disposals if any. The proportion between EH and HLF funding has not yet been determined.

- 1.10 Cabinet will consider a separate report on St Helen's House Trust's Feasibility Stage 1 at this meeting. A decision is likely to be made on whether or not to grant the Trust a further period of exclusivity to develop a detailed business case.
- 1.11 In the meantime, the opportunity to submit bids for the Roundhouse and the Silk Mill are not being grasped.
- 1.12 In these circumstances it would be appropriate to trigger the work now on submission to HLF on behalf of:
- the Roundhouse now on the grounds that the design work is at an advanced stage and the funding package is almost complete, and
 - the Silk Mill as soon as the design work is at an appropriate stage.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. This process began with the widest possible call for projects. Only those in this report met the criteria in terms of impact and value.

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Background papers: None
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Each of the three candidate projects will need well over £1m of the HLF funding.

No firm costings are available yet, but it is clear that the smallest HLF funding requirement is likely to be for St Helen's House, which may be less than £2. At the other end of the spectrum, the Silk Mill Museum project in its entirety would require £10m.

The Roundhouse will probably sit between these two extremes.

Legal

- 2.1 All of the buildings under consideration are in the ownership of the Council. The relationship with funders would be regulated by a Funding Agreement in each case.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 Within the limitations imposed by listed building status, all developments of historic buildings in Derby will be carried out with a view to creating maximum accessibility.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's Objectives

- **a stimulating and high quality learning environment**
- **healthy, safe and independent communities**
- **a lively and energetic cultural life**

- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priorities of

- **raising educational achievement**
- **improving customer service, in the city centre and locally**