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BUILDING · CONSERVATION

Making Heritage Work

Heritage Lottery Fund

Transcript of on-line questionnaire

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Dear Sirs

SHAPING THE FUTURE – FOR HERITAGE, FOR EVERYONE

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the professional body of the United Kingdom representing conservation specialists and historic environment practitioners in the public and private sectors. The Institute exists to establish the highest standards of conservation practice, to support the effective protection and enhancement of the historic environment, and to promote heritage-led regeneration and access to the historic environment for all.

Thank you for inviting us to participate in this consultation.

Q1 *To what extent do you agree or disagree we should express our current three strategic aims of conservation, participation and learning as a single aim in future – 'making a positive and lasting difference for heritage and people'?*

*Strongly agree, Tend to agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Tend to disagree, **Strongly disagree**, No opinion, Don't know*

Why do you say that?

We feel that the proposed single strategic aim loses the focus of the current strategic aims which are succinct and describe more obviously what outcomes are expected from projects. We think that the objective(s) should be phrased to make clear that the end result required is conservation and the main vehicle is people. Perhaps: *helping people to conserve their heritage for future generations* would be better.

Q2 *In 2010-2011 we expect to make awards totalling around £128m through our open programmes (Heritage Grants and Your Heritage) and £70m through targeted programmes and strategic initiatives.*

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should target more funds to identified strategic needs and reduce the amount of funding available through open programmes?

*Strongly agree, Tend to agree, **Neither agree nor disagree**, Tend to disagree, Strongly disagree, No opinion, Don't know*

Why do you say that?

We think that HLF programmes should be balanced and flexible. It would be a pity if sound projects were denied funding purely because they did not conform to a strategy, particularly if projects falling within the strategy did not match their benefit to heritage and the community.

Q3 *To what extent do you agree we should solicit applications more frequently, in order to focus our funding on strategic priorities for heritage? Strongly agree, **Tend to agree**, Neither agree nor disagree, Tend to disagree, Strongly disagree, No opinion, Don't know*

Why do you say that?

If there are areas where strategic priority is not being met by demand, then publicity about the aims of the strategy and the availability of funding should be targeted. But this should not extend to the funding of unsound or unsustainable proposals purely or mainly because they meet strategic aims.

Q4 *To what extent do you agree we should give priority to funding for heritage identified as being at risk?*

*Strongly agree, **Tend to agree**, Neither agree nor disagree, Tend to disagree, Strongly disagree, No opinion, Don't know*

Why do you say that?

Heritage identified as being at risk is an indicator of the urgent need for resources and HLF funding is often needed to preserve it. But whether these should be publicly funded is a matter of judgement. Public funding should not be a substitute for expenditure that should properly be incurred by the building's owner. Nor should hopeless cases have disproportionately high resources provided.

Q5 *[We are then asked to say whether priority should be given to any of the following sectors and to what extent.] Archaeology ; Archives ; Cultures and memories, languages and dialects ; Historic buildings and monuments ; Industrial heritage ; Landscapes ; Library collections ; Museums and collections ; Parks ; Places of worship ; Ships and maritime heritage ; Transport heritage ; Wildlife and nature conservation*

The Institute has no strong views on this other than we would wish to see the conservation of physical heritage predominate in the funding mix, particularly historic buildings and monuments, parks and places of worship.

Q6 *How important are the following aspects of how we currently work as a Lottery funder?*

A. Working closely with organisations and responding to needs at local level as well as operating within a UK-wide strategic framework

B. Providing support (as described) to applicants and grantees throughout the grant administration process

C. Giving locally-based help to organisations less experienced in making applications

Essential Very important, Fairly important, Not very important, Not at all important, No opinion, Don't know

Why do you say that?

All of these are important but we feel that (C) is in greatest need of support at present.

Q7 *Has your organisation ever received a grant from HLF? Yes/No/Don't know*

No.

Q8 *Which statement below most closely reflects your opinion of the amount of work involved in the application process, bearing in mind that Lottery money is public funding?*

The work involved was in proportion to the amount of money we asked for

The work involved was excessive in relation to the amount of money we asked for

The work involved was relatively little in relation to the amount of money we asked for

We have never applied for Heritage Lottery funding

We would add that feedback from our professional members (who as individuals are familiar with the HLF process) indicates that the work involved in the application process is generally regarded as excessive.

As a small and largely voluntary organisation with limited capacity – our first staff employee was only appointed in 2004 – and working across a wide range of sectors (at least 9 Sector Skills Councils have been identified as covering our areas of operation), we have had no opportunities to develop such programmes because of the resource commitment demanded and the uncertain outcomes. Unlike other comparable organisations, no encouragement or capacity has come to the IHBC from government or national heritage interests to pursue such applications, despite the core role the IHBC and its members play in the conservation of the built and historic environment.

Why do you say that? What more could we do to improve our current grant-making processes?

1. Simplify them.

2. We understand from verbal evidence from our members that THI funding in contrast has been under-subscribed and that this is at least in part due to some organisations - including Local Authorities familiar with making grant applications - deciding NOT to apply for THI's due to its onerous administrative requirements/ over-complexity.

Q9 *We focus our development work on geographic areas and communities who may not have applied to us before with the aim of encouraging good-quality applications. In deciding on a local basis where to focus these resources in future, to what extent do you agree or disagree that we should take account of the following:*

A. Geographical areas that have received least funding from us in the past (e.g. local authority areas)

B. Social groups that have benefited least from our funding in the past (e.g. people with disabilities, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, Lower socio-economic groups)

C. Types of heritage that have benefited least from our funding in the past

(e.g. archives, land and biodiversity, industrial, maritime and transport heritage)

*Strongly agree, Tend to agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Tend to disagree, **Strongly disagree**, No opinion, Don't know*

We think that the distribution of funding should follow the distribution of heritage projects in need of it and not be skewed by potentially irrelevant geographic, administrative or socio-economic criteria that will of their nature almost necessarily lack a capacity for independent verification or sector scrutiny. However, relevant heritage types which are geographically or community specific could be targeted.

Q10 Which one of the following statements best reflects your view?

A. HLF should give more priority to ensuring the financial sustainability of an organisation that has already received Lottery money, to build on what has already been achieved, rather than new projects .

B. HLF should give more priority to new projects that will bring new and different benefits, rather than to projects that have already received Lottery money .

C. HLF should aim to strike a balance between the two .

None of these

Don't know

Why do you say that?

As the sustainability of projects should have been a feature of previous grants the bolstering of previously funded projects should not have priority over new projects. Exceptions might be given to extenuating circumstances and subsequent projects by organizations with a good track record of success.

See also our response to the question about thriving and resilient heritage communities below.

Q11 *As a Lottery funder, to what extent do you agree or disagree that we should seek to extend our role to build the financial sustainability of voluntary organisations with initiatives to support organisational development?*

*Strongly agree, Tend to agree, Neither agree nor disagree, **Tend to disagree**, Strongly disagree, No opinion, Don't know*

Why do you say that?

Many organizations are currently stretched with regard to core funding. The aim should be to build sustainability for projects and not organizations. Organizations should be responsible for their own sustainability using, if necessary, project work to do so. That said, in the current economic climate it would not be unreasonable to consider that HLF might try to mitigate the damage being caused to the organisational infrastructure of the sector. Any such support should be made in the context of open processes that tie it to specific conservation and heritage outcomes rather simply a reduction in income.

Q12 *What role should HLF play to encourage philanthropy and more private supporters for heritage at all levels?*

Grants should continue to be on a matched funding basis thus promoting this aspect. The value of buildings donated for heritage and community purposes could be taken into account in the calculations and should incentivise private giving to heritage.

Greater emphasis could also be placed on assessing and incorporating in calculations the value of contributions in kind, whether individual and corporate. For example the small contributions of time or travel costs by large numbers of dedicated individuals often can make all the difference to the success of a project or initiative, though estimating values accurately is seldom viable. Every encouragement should be given to a cost-effective inclusion of the collective value of those contributions.

Q13 What more could HLF do to help achieve a thriving and resilient heritage community in future?

We think that the HLF should continue to support skills and capacity building in all areas where they can be seen to impact on the heritage sector. At a time of generally dwindling resources the role of the third sector and its local connexions is increasingly important. Such support would mesh well with the Government's localism agenda. HLF should remove the clawback clause for Revolving Fund Building Preservation Trusts. This would allow them to build on their own resources and make them less reliant on HLF funding in the future.

We would stress the importance of securing a sustainable future for the heritage sector by encouraging a more substantial integration between core heritage activities in the historic environment and the wider development and construction sector within which a sustainable and expanding heritage sector could and should operate.

Many of the IHBC's members work both in mainstream construction and development as well as the traditional 'heritage'. It is often that breadth that makes their specialist heritage skills viable 'commodities' in a sustainable workforce, while also providing a crucial environment for the honing of the kind of interdisciplinary skills sets recognised by organisations from ICOMOS to the World Bank as being central to successful conservation project outcomes.

Wider perspectives of what constitutes the heritage sector also align with England's PPS5 and comparable current and recent policy documents across the UK, as governments increasingly are recognising the importance of less obviously 'historic' or 'cultural' assets in the context of an all-inclusive definition of the 'historic environment'.

These wider interpretations should shape how the HLF will take on a more proactive role in supporting a broader constituency of heritage interests. In particular the value of the collective resource of traditional, pre-1919 built fabric has been highlighted by ourselves as well as organisations as diverse as the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG), the Conference on Training in Architectural Conservation (COTAC) and SAVE Britain's Heritage.

Much of the management of the pre-1919 resource – a key part of our 'historic environment' - operates through the mainstream construction industry, but it takes place only very occasionally with the benefit of skilled or accredited professional practitioners such as members of the IHBC. However HLF funding and investment in skills has not had an impact on such mainstream professional interests in the built environment, despite the fact that they provide the crucial interface in caring for more ordinary historic places.

In response to this challenge, HLF should make every effort to see how it can take advantage of training opportunities to help integrate the heritage and mainstream sectors at the level of professional development. Enabling the proper care of that resource through the mainstream industry would help take advantage of an important opportunity for the creation of a sustainable - even 'thriving and resilient' - heritage community, tying it to planning, development, construction and wider business industry interests.

As noted below in the response to Q28, taking advantage of the IHBC's provision of an inter-disciplinary standard for conservation professionals, as well as recognising the efforts of other built environment professional bodies to enhance their conservation skills, HLF could support skills development at professional levels through establishing bursaries attached to personal CPD plans geared towards enhancing skills that impact on heritage resources.

Q14 *To what extent do you agree or disagree with a simplified approach to grants under £10,000?*

Strongly agree, *Tend to agree*, *Neither agree nor disagree*, *Tend to disagree*, **Strongly disagree**, *No opinion*, *Don't know*

This will help the application process for small projects. However we feel that the limit may be set to low and that a limit at least twice this would be necessary to genuinely promote a range of small scale schemes. Of course such works should not preclude the need for skilled conservation input where works impact directly on heritage resources. Small amounts of money, improperly spent, can do untold damage to historic fabric and areas. See our comment below on the next question.

Q15 *To what extent do you agree or disagree we should offer a medium sized grants programme with a single round application process?*

Strongly agree, *Tend to agree*, *Neither agree nor disagree*, *Tend to disagree*, **Strongly disagree**, *No opinion*, *Don't know*

*What should the upper threshold be for an open, single round community heritage programme starting at £10,000? (tick one) £50,000 £100,000 £150,000 **£200,000**, Other amount (write in) Don't know*

Do you have any other comments on small and medium sized grants?

Yes.

As the process is streamlined there is an ever-increasing tendency to sideline the core role of skilled specialist advice, in particular where advice from conservation specialists working within credible ethical frameworks might be crucial. HLF must not promote, encourage or allow a streamlining that will negate or side-line the role that specialist advice plays in the conservation process. HLF must appreciate that just as much damage (or more) can be done to our heritage by improperly directed investment as by the absence of investment. If HLF investment in historic fabric and areas is to be truly sustainable it be founded on advice from skilled specialists who are both competent in their area of operation (including being sufficiently aware of their personal skills to know when they are not competent), AND bound by credible and appropriate ethical principles that secure the conservation of the built and historic environment.

Q16 What should our requirements for partnership funding contributions be after 2013? A. Return to their previous levels? B. Stay the same as they are now? **C. Be reduced even further?** Don't know

- 1. We fear that partnership funding may be more difficult to come by over the next few years but the matter should be kept under review.**
- 2. The HLF should consider providing up to 100% funding due to the scarcity of matched funding in the current economic climate.**
- 3. The HLF should consider funding up to 100% of professional fees for options appraisals and feasibility studies (possibly based on the APT/AHF model) in order for worthy projects to "get off the ground". The HLF should also remove the requirement to re-tender for professional services at frequent stages. One consultant team is appointed should be retained for the project unless the applicant wants to change.**

Do you have any overall comments on our Heritage Grants programme?

The HLF must maintain and expand its focus on area-based heritage grant programmes, not least given the wider economic downturn as discussed below. We would encourage the most energetic consideration being given to securing and delivering concrete projects in this aspect of heritage investment, not least for the reasons given in the response to the next question below.

Q17 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following continue to be the right priorities for our targeted programmes?

Young people; Landscapes; Parks Places of worship; Townscape regeneration

Strongly agree; Tend to agree; Neither agree nor disagree; Tend to disagree; Strongly disagree; No opinion; Don't know

Why do you say that?

We are particularly keen to see the maintenance and expansion of townscape regeneration programmes. They invest in areas which everyone can benefit from and enjoy and are the democratic face of heritage investment. They create a virtuous circle of building confidence in heritage areas which then become more self-sustaining.

Currently THI spending is only a small part of the HLF budget (we believe it to be around 4%) and with the decline of English Heritage area based funding this will be the only support for the heritage lead regeneration of the most deserving areas.

Having said we strongly support the retention of heritage lead regeneration schemes we are not necessarily committed to the continuation of the THI programme as it stands. There are clearly issues to be dealt with about the complexity of the application process and in the current climate the need for match funding. A revised area based scheme could build upon the best of both the HLF English Heritage and Historic Scotland funding programmes over the years.

We think the maintenance and expansion of an area based heritage lead regeneration programme should have the highest priority.

In addition, and self-evidently, these works will have the further benefit of promoting skills, employment, enjoyment and investment across the most

diverse spectrum of user interests, from local residents and core heritage professionals to businesses with only limited awareness of heritage benefits. In line with the observations made under Q13 above, such operations will usefully highlight the value and importance of heritage to all involved. It will both enhance the viability and sustainability of the core heritage sector investment and skills in the context of a wider and better informed community of local interests, as well help integrate the dedicated heritage skills sets within a wider and more mainstream process in the development sector of care and 'change management'. Consequently we think this should have the highest priority.

Q18 What should the upper limit for Young Roots grants be? (tick one) £25,000 £50,000 £75,000 Other amount **£100,000**, Don't know

Q19 How could our Young Roots programme be improved?

The age limit should not be too strictly adhered to as groups often have mixed age-groups or have some adult support.

Q20 What are your thoughts on our proposals for the Landscape Partnerships programme? How could they be improved?

IHBC members would be pleased to engage with HLF on these.

Q21 What are your thoughts on our proposals for the Parks for People programme? How could they be improved?

IHBC strongly agrees with these proposals, in light of the above statistics and also our members' knowledge of the value of the Parks for People projects supported to date. We are also aware of the significant heritage maintenance issues in cemeteries.

Q22 What are your thoughts on our proposals for supporting places of worship? How could they be improved?

IHBC agrees with both continued support on the past basis (to recognise the exceptional physical heritage value of many places of worship); but also agree with giving some additional recognition/ support criteria where there will be extended community benefit arising from a proposal.

Q23 To what extent do you agree that heritage-led regeneration should continue to be a focus for HLF? **Strongly agree**, Tend to agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Tend to disagree, Strongly disagree, No opinion, Don't know

See also the responses to questions 16 and 17 above.

Q24 How can HLF best support place-based heritage, and communities' engagement with it?

1. By adequately funding the necessary professional skill to achieving high quality outcomes while also directing funds to those initiatives that deliver concrete conservation outcomes within a sustainable framework that integrates skills development and wider market forces and trends. The area based regeneration or place-management schemes remain the most substantial

mechanisms for delivering such outcomes as they link both conservation and communities in a virtuous cycle of care, enjoyment and enhancement.

2. The match funding requirements for HLF schemes should be reviewed in light of current realities of, in particular, Local Authority funding, so that this extremely valuable program continues to deliver the heritage and economic regeneration positive outcomes we are aware it has secured.

3. See our comment above suggesting that HLF should support Historic Scotland's CARS program, which has delivered well but has been oversubscribed.

4. IHBC would welcome increased support also to assist the transfer of heritage assets to community ownership, where this can help secure the future of a heritage asset.

Q25 *How strong would you say your support for our proposals to address climate change is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?*

Why do you say that?

We are not convinced by this approach if it operates in line with principles that have been seen as the benchmarks to date. The preservation of heritage is an intrinsically sustainable process and should not be overlain by spurious targets for wider climate change issues. For small projects, particularly, this feature could inhibit applications and increase costs by requiring applicants to seek advice that would otherwise not be bringing about conservation outcomes. Any approach of this sort should be a prompted one (i.e. a questionnaire – have you considered a, b, c,? etc.) and not an open-ended task. This would help to focus project promoters to the issues without burdening them with unnecessary research.

All that said, the HLF's innovative investment and funding principles have previously secured for conservation a much higher profile for many of the benefits it brings, notably the social benefits of conservation strategies.

If, in a similar manner, HLF introduced a comparably progressive approach to bench-marking climate change and carbon-related parameters that could the register more effectively the carbon-mitigation and reduction benefits of conservation strategies, then HLF's approach could mark a sea-change for the sector.

For example HLF could help change the typical approach to caring for assets by calculating – and offering financial mitigation through funding - in respect of:

Credible calculations of the values of maintaining embodied energy values in historic fabric, as against the more typical adoption of so-called 'zero-carbon' strategies for new build or on-site 're-cycling' of traditional buildings

Adopting more holistic and rigorous calculations of carbon footprints for new materials and processes, an especially important consideration for procurement and the matter of importing cheaper materials originating outside the UK, where costs can be reduced as environmental and social impacts may be less vigorously controlled

Incorporating more effectively any calculations of the benefits of heritage works in terms of, for example, local jobs, high skills, local materials, etc

Highlighting the medium and long-term environmental damage of poor practice in integrating old and new technologies, for example the damage to people and buildings that can be caused by the inappropriate sealing of fabric simply for the short-term, and apparent, gain of reduced emissions

While much of this is commonsensical and self-evident across the heritage sector, it does not register with the monoliths of the government-funded energy advisers, the construction industry or the mainstream built environment professions.

By operating such progressive – indeed, given the narrow focus in the current climate, quite radical - assessments of climate change benefits, HLF could again mark a step change in social and commercial perceptions of heritage values. Integrating these assessments with more typical low-carbon strategies would provide an invaluable bench-marking for the sector in the 21st century.

On the other hand, if a project to help sustain heritage assets that would become susceptible to particular aspects of climate change e.g. rising sea levels or the degradation of upland peat or higher wind speeds affecting steeples were to emerge we would hope HLF would consider funding.

Q26 How strong would you say your support for our proposals for digital heritage is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?

Three. We are not convinced it should have any kind of priority and certainly shouldn't apply to projects that should be being funded from core funds.

Why do you say that?

We are concerned there should not be a requirement for a digital heritage aspect of a worthwhile project proposal, but are open to some support being given to this area. We recognise that this is already a strongly evolving area.

What types of heritage should be priorities for digitisation, and why?

IHBC members would be pleased to engage with HLF on developing proposals in these areas.

What types of innovation are most important for HLF to fund, and why?

IHBC members would be pleased to engage with HLF on developing proposals in these areas.

Q27 How strong is your support for our proposal to run further targeted initiatives on skills in future, on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?

Five.

Why do you say that?

We think that the upkeep of the nation's conservation skills base is a key to the long-term future of our heritage. We are aware that despite good initiatives including by the HLF and others, there is still a very significant traditional skills gap and training need in the built heritage sector.

Q28 What skills should be priorities for our support in a future initiative, and why?

See our comments above in response to the question about thriving and resilient heritage communities in particular, regarding the need to support the integration of heritage skills within a wider mainstream of the construction industry. This includes also the need to enhance professional skills for the care of more ordinary historic fabric and places across the mainstream built environment.

In that context the IHBC's Areas of Competence – both professional and Practical - may be seen to provide the specialist interdisciplinary standard (http://www.ihbc.org.uk/membership_join.htm) and the Edinburgh Group's Unit's the standard within the traditional built environment professions that shape the care and enhancement of our more ordinary valued places (<http://www.understandingconservation.org/>).

Supporting skills development at professional levels in the sector, for example through bursaries for attendance at appropriate CPD opportunities, such as conservation course modules, or events, such as IHBC events, would be a simple way of enhancing skills across a key level in the industry largely responsible for the care of our ordinary historic places. This could be attached to personal CPD plans geared towards enhancing skills where they impact on heritage resources.

In addition, of course, traditional building craft skills are a key resource and easily transferable as project work patterns change.

Q29 What role could or should HLF play in helping the passing on of knowledge and skills within the sector?

We think that the most effective means of skills transfer is project-based. We have considerable experience of this in our outreach work in Romania. Support for this way of working would be very welcome. HLF could consider funding community groups who are seeking to promote a heritage project, to hire a conservation professional (recognising that such expertise may be available following redundancies/ early retirements).

See also our response to the question about thriving and resilient heritage communities above, and elsewhere.

*Q30 To what extent should HLF do more to support heritage in private ownership? A great deal, **A fair amount**, Just a little, Not at all, Don't know*

Why do you say that?

Alongside the encouragement that the HLF should recognise that the mainstream construction industry is responsible for the care and improvement of the vast majority of the 'historic environment', even if it does not consider itself to be, so too private owners are predominantly the clients responsible for its care. In addition, as public funds for heritage operations diminish, it is only reasonable to look more widely for resources to secure capacity for the care of valued places.

We think that support for heritage in private ownership should be net of any financial benefit to the owner (taking account also of the public benefit which accrues). Perhaps consideration of a protocol akin to that for "enabling development" would be appropriate?

*Q31 To what extent do you consider the purchase of heritage items in future to be important? Essential, Very important, **Fairly important**, Not very important, Not at all important, Don't know*

Why do you say that?

We think HLF should help support asset transfer from public owners to local communities but only where the public authority's financial contribution is very substantial and where the conservation controls are at an appropriately high level. In any case this is an area in urgent need of support given the wider economic cutbacks across local government, and requires policy consideration at the earliest possible time.

We would note also, for more general considerations, that private philanthropy is much easier to secure for the purchase of museum and artistic objects than for the conservation of public resources or private assets such as valued buildings and places, and that consideration should be given to this in the allocation of funds.

While we recognise that the conservation sector needs to do much more to secure private funding and investment, the point has been well-made by Loyd Grossman among others, that the outcomes of, say, heritage regeneration in deprived areas outside London will not have the same attraction to private philanthropy as a new gallery extension in the capital or a painting hanging in a museum.

Q32 *How strong would you say your support for our proposal to simplify the process for urgent acquisitions is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?*

3. For context and qualification, see also the answer to the question on asset transfer above.

Q33 *How strong would you say your support for our proposal for a new Collecting Cultures initiative is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?*

3. For context and qualification, see also the answer to the question on asset transfer above.

Q34 *How strong would you say your support for our proposal for mainstreaming the principle behind Collecting Cultures within our general grants programmes is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?*

3. For context and qualification, see also the answer to the question on asset transfer above.

Why do you say that?

We think there should be reasonable scope for successful bids, where suitable opportunities arise, and yet without unduly pushing this as a separate new program. We are also concerned that there should be close scrutiny to ensure good value for money in any use of HLF funds for heritage acquisition. More important strategically, though, is the fact that HLF has helped the sector highlight the widest social and cultural benefits that conservation investment can bring, admittedly sometimes at the cost of occasionally arduous management processes, but always with the best of intentions. This approach has made the sector raise the profile of the real benefits brought by conservation, and to counter wider accusations that the heritage of our places is either a narrowly focussed benefit for the privileged few or a resource that is inaccessible to communities at large.

Such progressive thinking sets a clear base-line for a re-invigorated focus by the HLF on the key issues for heritage in the 21st century, which this consultation hopefully presages. These include:

- climate change
- wider definitions of how we value historic places and what we value in them, and

how heritage interests can secure a more sustainable future through establishing viable interfaces with more mainstream industries and interests.

Q35 *Overall what do you think HLF has done particularly well?*

IHBC's main expertise is in the area of the built heritage environment and in that context of a body representing built heritage professionals, we are aware that the following aspects of HLF programs have been particularly successful:

- 1. THI schemes**
- 2. Places of Worship grants**
- 3. Parks for People projects**
- 4. Individual building projects**

HLF has played a hugely important role in underpinning investment in our historic places over its entire history, though it's real impact overall will take many decades to assess fully. Ranging across a core of straightforward conservation projects to radical interventions in sensitive sites, the full spectrum of conservation approaches to our historic places has been led by HLF investment, with new benchmarks achieved as well as, of course, many lessons learned.

Q36 *And what should we change?*

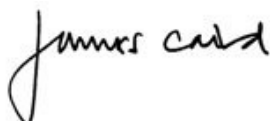
1. HLF should be less susceptible to the political interests or prejudices, and more focussed on delivering investment, support and benefits specifically in line with the needs of the sector.

2. We share the view expressed by others that HLF's high turnover of staff can be a continuity issue for applicant groups.

3. We are concerned at the very small percentage of HLF funds allocated to THI's, in contrast to the very high value we see (i.e. physical heritage plus economic benefit results) such projects have delivered AND the very significant scope which remains for the continuation of such projects. Townscape Heritage Initiative projects are highly visible projects that are well thought of locally. We are concerned that, without a change of policy (see our comments above) this small percentage could fall further.

4. Overall, there is a need to make the administrative, reporting and bidding requirements less onerous.

Yours faithfully



James Caird
Consultant Consultations Co-ordinator