



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

Making Heritage Work

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Dear Sirs

REGIONAL GROWTH FUND CONSULTATION

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. We have a consultations panel which contributes to responses to consultations papers although it is open to any member to participate if they think they have something to contribute.

The Institute supports the proposed introduction of the fund, but would ask you to consider the following comments:

Allocation of funding (page 7)

1. Are there benefits to be had from allocating different elements of the fund in different ways?

Although the Process section does mention favourable consideration being given to LEP-backed proposals "...where they are put forward as a holistic package on behalf of the area and demonstrate that they have the support of the local community", there is no mention in the criteria of potential for side benefits such as physical renewal, place-making or conservation.

The Institute thinks that the criteria section should include (or be supplemented by) a secondary range of opportunities, including heritage ones, that might add to benefit to be had from investment from the Fund.

Whilst such criteria could apply to all applications where relevant, there might be scope for prompting specific types of application through specific sub-funds.

Type of activity (page 8)

2. What type of activities, that promote the objectives outlined above, should the fund support and how should the fund be best designed to facilitate this?

The Institute favours proposals having the opportunity to promote spin-off community and physical regeneration benefits in addition to meeting the primary objectives of the fund. We think that such value added should be recognized in the way in which the funds are allocated.

Bid system (page 9)

3. Do you think that these are the right criteria for assessing bids to the Regional Growth Fund?

Subject to our comments above, we agree with this aspect.

Bidding process (page 9)

4. Do you think we should operate a two-stage bidding process?

Yes. The Institute supports bidding for resources from the fund spread over the two years it will be available.

Longer term potential (page 11)

5. Should a Regional Growth Fund become a long-term means of funding activity that promotes growth?

The Institute supports this in principle.

We hope these comments are helpful.

Yours faithfully



James Caird
Consultant Consultations Co-ordinator