

HIGH STREETS AND HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

In May 2019, Historic England launched a new £40 million fund which will allow Historic England to work with partners to find new ways to champion and revive historic high streets through the High Streets Heritage Action Zones scheme.

The programme is administered by Historic England on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Under this programme we can apply for a grant of **between £250,000 and £2m**, to set up a **four-year partnership from April 2020 to March 2024** to run a HSHAZ 'scheme' to deliver physical improvements and cultural and community activities to regenerate your historic high street or town centre.

We are at the initial competitive stage of the process where we have been invited to submit an **Expression of Interest**. The deadline for this submission is the **12th of July 2019**. We have

The HSHAZ must be:

- In a Conservation Area
- Delivered through a partnership
- Include the local authority as a partner
- Delivered with demonstrable support of the local community
- Be capable of delivery within the 4 year period

Please follow this [link](#) to view the relevant guidance, application form and sample application form to familiarise yourself with the process and detail. The application is very similar to a Townscape Heritage Initiative and the recent Future High Street Fund application.

I include an extract from the HSHAZ guidance notes detailing:

Costs Covered

Physical Works:

- Building repairs
- Reinstating architectural features
- Work to the public realm
- Work to bring vacant buildings or portions of buildings back into use
- Conversion of buildings into alternative uses that better meet the demand of the area
- Good-quality and sympathetic development in gap sites

Activities to help people engage with the heritage:

- Community engagement activities
- Capacity building in partner organisations,
- Providing training in traditional conservation skills for contractors and trainees
- Demonstrations of good maintenance techniques for property owners

Work to help you develop and run your scheme:

- Preparation of development briefs / appraisals
- Preparation of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans
- The appointment of project officers to oversee schemes (see A4.1)
- Valuations, professional fees, or the costs associated with getting statutory permissions; research and strategic planning work to safeguard the long-term approach to conservation
- Preparation of shop front design guides
- The development of local research projects

Costs Not Covered

- Demolitions
- Building services (except in exceptional circumstances where the state of repair of current building services threatens the historic significance of a building)
- Inappropriate substitute materials
- Conjectural reinstatement
- Maintenance and minor repairs
- Existing local authority staffing costs and any staffing or running costs already in place – for example – legal or other support costs
- Works that are detrimental to the heritage significance of a place