

Future High Streets Fund

On 30 May 2019, at 15:58, Hayley Owen <Hayley.Owen@shropshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Member

As you are aware, Government announced a new Future High Streets Fund, with £675m being allocated to support the renewal and reshaping of town centres and high streets in a way that improves experience, drives growth and ensures future sustainability. As part of that fund, Government has now confirmed that £44m has been allocated to Historic England for work to support historic high streets. <https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/regenerating-historic-high-streets/>

The High Streets Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ) programme is a place-based scheme designed to secure lasting improvements to historic high streets and the communities who use them. The scheme is intended to support sustainable economic and cultural growth on and around high streets and restore and enhance local historic character, making the high street an attractive, engaging and vibrant place for people to live, work and play.

Under this programme local authorities, charitable trusts, or other public sector organisations and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations who can demonstrate capacity to deliver, can apply for a grant of between £250,000 and £2m. This is to set up a four-year partnership beginning April 2020 to run a HSHAZ 'scheme' to deliver physical improvements and cultural and community activities to regenerate the historic high street or town centre. Match funding is expected to support this of around 50%.

In order to be considered for funding, EOI applications must meet the following four Essential Criteria set out in the guidance:

1. The HSHAZ must be in a Conservation Area
2. The HSHAZ must be delivered through a partnership, and include the local authority as a partner.
3. The HSHAZ must be delivered with demonstrable support of the local community
4. The HSHAZ must be capable of delivery (scheme completion) in four years (April 2020 to March 2024)

The assessment process is competitive and Historic England expect demand to exceed the available funding.

This is a two stage process and Expressions of Interest are invited to Historic England by the 12th July 2019 and successful EOIs will be invited to submit a full programme of work (dates and details yet to be released).

Shropshire Council officers have started to review the guidance and information in relation to this funding opportunity. We will be working up ideas over the coming weeks and are keen to understand from local elected members and parish and town councils whose high streets qualify, what ideas and suggestions you have.

If you would like your town/high street to be considered for this opportunity, please contact your Place Plan Officer in the first instance who can help facilitate this discussion and will be capturing the levels of interest. Myself and Andy Wigley - Natural and Historic Environment Manager, are working closely together on this.

Many thanks
Hayley

Hayley Owen
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