

Heritage Lottery Fund: Committee for Northern Ireland Meeting on 4 December 2018

CNI 2018 (4)

Summary report of the meeting of the Committee for Northern Ireland held on 4 December 2018 in the Belfast Office, starting at 10.00 a.m.

Members:

- Anna Carragher (Chair)
- Angelina Fusco
- Jacqueline Irwin
- Sheila McClelland
- Tony McCusker
- Jim McGreevy

Apologies:

- Jodie Jackson
- Mukesh Sharma

Committee Business

1. Welcomes and apologies

Oral

The Chair welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting. Jodie Jackson and Mukesh Sharma had sent apologies.

2. Chair's Report

Oral

The Chair updated the Committee on her activities since the last meeting and noted that she had attended the following;

- Heritage Angels event
- Country and Regional Chairs meeting discussing the proposed new structures
- With the Head of NI, met with CEO of Camelot
- Strategy Board in Dundee

Members provided updates of a number of events and launches attended since the last Committee meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 18 September 2018

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The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Oral

There were none.

5. Corporate Update

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Commercial in confidence

Sue Bowers presented the corporate update in a closed session for the members with the Head of Country present. Sue gave a brief overview of the context for Shaping Our Future Business which was noted by the Committee. It would allow HLF to be more streamlined and consistent in our approach to delivery of the SFF and in support of the sector, with more consistent ways of working and would address recommendations from the tailored review.

Key points noted by the committee were as follows;

- A stronger strategic approach with greater partnership working and a focus on skills development.
- A shift from four departments to three – Business Services, Business Insight and Innovation and Business Delivery.
- English Regions would reduce from nine regions to three English areas. The Countries would remain, giving a total of six Areas across the UK allowing a more strategic approach across the country with more flexible budgets, increased efficiency and a more flexible workforce.
- An illustrative Northern Ireland Area structure was shared and demonstrated how roles such as HR or Communications may be based outside of London. An illustrative hub and spoke model for England Area's was also noted.
- A greater level of delegation and flexibility of budgets to the Area and Country teams would be seen and Countries would have access to contingency for larger awards.
- The Committee noted new delegation limits for 2019-20 and from 2020 onwards.

Next steps would include an independent governance review which would take place in early 2019. Three interim England Area committees would be created to operate from April/May 2019 for a 12 month period. All members would be invited to submit an expression of interest to be a part of these committees and a more formal and longer term for the Committees would be identified as part of the governance review.

6. Northern Ireland Overview Report

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Paul Mullan, Head of Country, introduced the report and highlighted that a BBC Radio 4 programme had been made on the Ulster Museum's The Troubles and Beyond gallery. The Committee noted the report.

7. Budget report

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Stella Byrne presented the report.

One round two Grants for Places of Worship (GPOW) project had been received for the meeting totalling £217,200. The Committee noted that this was fundable from the budget if it met quality criteria and that scrutiny should be applied.

One Heritage Grants (HG) grant increase of £48,200 had been received and would be assessed with round two applications. The Committee noted that if approved, this resulted in a grant percentage increase of 2% from 29% to 31%.

Six first round Heritage Grants (HG) cases totalling £1,938,200 had been received for the meeting against a budget of £847,500. This resulted in a success rate of 44%. The Committee noted that prioritisation would be required.

8. Declarations of Interest

Oral

Members declared interests in the following applications which were deemed conflicting and the members would not remain present for the case discussions or subsequent prioritisation;

Item 12 – Community Archaeology for All – HG-17-01258

- Tony McCusker had a conflict in relation to the application from the Rural Development Council as he Chairs that body

Item 14 - Aghalee Parish Development Project - HG-17-08663

- Sheila McClelland had a conflict with the Aghalee Parish Church application

Members declared interests in the applications listed below which were noted but it was not deemed necessary for them to step out of the conversations or refrain from taking votes/decisions.

Item 13 - Our Past, Our Places, Our Perspectives –HG -18-00217

- Jacqueline Irwin – CEO of the Community Relations Council, a current funder of the applicant but had no connection to the project.

SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision:

9. Northern Bank Portglenone ; HG-15-05356

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Grantee: Portglenone Enterprise Group

Request: Award Grant Increase of £48,200 to make a total grant of £240,300

Project: To acquire and redevelop the B1 listed former Northern Bank to create an interpretive community space. The project will safeguard the historic building, interpret and promote the social history of the area, provide a shared community facility and business provision through a two-storey extension.

The Committee for Northern Ireland **AWARDED** a grant increase of £48,200 to make a total grant of £240,300 (31%)

10. Repair of Spire and Tower at Christ Church Derriaghy; GP-16-01301

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Grantee: Derriaghy Parish Church, Christ Church Church of Ireland

Request: Award Grant of £217,200 (45%)

Project: To repair and restore a Grade A listed church built in c1860. The project would allow sympathetic restoration to the church to enable it to remain in public use and protect its heritage for future generations.

The Committee for Northern Ireland awarded a first round pass of £250,000 including a development grant of £32,800 (38% of eligible development costs) in September 2017.

The Committee for Northern Ireland **APPROVED** the change in percentage and awarded a grant of £217,200 (45%)

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision:

11. Camus Parish Church Restoration and Inclusive Participation Programme (Living History in the Community); HG-17-08694

CNI 2018 (4) 11

Applicant: St Columb's Diocesan Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £375,400, including Development Grant of £0

Project: To repair and protect a B+ Listed Church and create a Parish Legacy Heritage exhibition space to share stories of the parish and church with visitors and the local community. The repairs would sensitively restore an important church which was at the centre of the community and protect it for future generations.

The Committee for Northern Ireland agreed the application represented a **MEDIUM** priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £375,400, including Development Grant of £0 (0% of eligible development costs).

12. Community Archaeology for All; HG-17-01258

CNI 2018 (4) 12

Tony McCusker was not present for the discussion due to a conflict of interest.

Applicant: The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council

Request: First Round Pass of £422,100, including Development Grant of £38,100

Project: A community archaeology programme which would engage and support six communities to explore undiscovered heritage in the local settlements. The project would deliver a range of heritage skills training and establish a Heritage Network to enable shared learning and partnership working between the communities and the supporting professional bodies.

The Committee for Northern Ireland agreed the application represented a **LOW** priority for support and **REJECTED** the application due to the concerns raised.

13. Our Past, Our Places, Our Perspectives; HG-18-00217

CNI 2018 (4) 13

Applicant: The Corrymeela Community

Request: First Round Pass of £181,000, including Development Grant of £21,200

Project: To develop sustainable heritage practice across the community, heritage and reconciliation sectors. The Project would support marginalised communities to explore and document local heritage landscapes, enabling examination of multi-layered histories. The project would enable local heritage projects to be delivered in a number of communities and would encourage greater engagement with contested heritage as a tool for heritage protection and peace building.

The Committee for Northern Ireland agreed the application represented a **MEDIUM** priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £181,000, including development grant of £21,200 (72% of eligible development costs).

14. Aghalee Parish Development Project; HG-17-06743

CNI 2018 (4) 14

Sheila McClelland was not present for the discussion due to a conflict of interest

Applicant: Holy Trinity Church of Ireland Aghalee

Request: First Round Pass of £188,000, including Development Grant of £14,400

Project: To repair and protect a 17th Century B1 Listed Church undertaking extensive works to the interior and exterior that have arisen as a result of water ingress. In addition to the structural repairs, the project the church will partner with Lagan Navigation Trust and Agahlee Community Development Trust to explore its own and the local heritage of the river Lagan and adjacent hamlet of Soldierstown. A number of outputs will be created including a parish website, information

leaflets, education packs, geocache sites and a programme of open days and activities all aimed at promoting and increasing engagement with heritage.

The Committee for Northern Ireland agreed the application represented a **HIGH** priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £188,000 including development grant of £14,400 (80% of eligible development costs).

15. Weather-proofing St Macartin's Cathedral for its role of outreach at the heart of the community; HG-17-08663

CNI 2018 (4) 15

Applicant: St Macartin's Cathedral

Request: First Round Pass of £245,000, including Development Grant of £16,200

Project: To provide essential works and repairs to a Grade A listed Cathedral dating from the 1620's. The project would weather proof the building and allow the Church to continue its work in serving the community in which it sits, both as a place of worship and as valuable asset to develop local tourist trade.

The Committee for Northern Ireland agreed the application represented a **LOW** priority for support and **REJECTED** the application due to the concerns raised.

16. Friel Reimagined; HG-18-00681

CNI 2018 (4) 16

Tony McCusker was not present for this conversation due to a prior stated need to leave the meeting early.

Applicant: The Queen's University of Belfast Foundation

Request: First Round Pass of £526,700, including Development Grant of £42,900

Project: To make available to the public the archives and writings of Brian Friel, a significant Northern Irish dramatist. The project would encourage greater engagement with the works through digital interpretation and access, tours and an events programme delivered in conjunction with local community groups. It would also make the work more accessible and relevant to new audiences and serve as a gateway to enhance understanding and future engagement with heritage.

The Committee for Northern Ireland **REJECTED** the application due to the concerns raised.

17. Prioritisation of first round items

Oral

The Committee were satisfied with the priorities given in the case by case discussions and made no amends.

The Committee for Northern Ireland agreed to award a first round pass with development grant to cases voted high and medium priority;

- Camus Parish Church Restoration and Inclusive Participation Programme (Living History in the Community) – HG-17-08694
- Our Past, Our Places, Our Perspectives- HG-18-00217
- Aghalee Parish Development Project – HG-17-06743

SF4 second round Board applications for discussion and recommendation:

18. Templemore Baths, Belfast, Restoration project; HE-16-01501

CNI 2018 (4) 18

Grantee: Belfast City Council

Request: Award Grant of £4,619,900 (28%)

Project: To restore Templemore Baths complex in a strategic and conservation led way for public use and erect a new pool and gym on the adjoining site to provide health and leisure facilities, all of which would contribute to the wider social, cultural and economic regeneration of the area. The project would also employ a Heritage and Engagement Officer to manage the heritage space and deliver the Activity Plan.

The Committee for Northern Ireland awarded a first round pass of £4,999,900 including a development grant of £380,000 (49% of eligible development costs) in September 2016.

The Committee for Northern Ireland recommended the project to the Board as a **HIGH** priority for support.

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation:

19. Re-rooting our past in the future: Castlewellan Historic Demesne; HG-18-00998

CNI 2018 (4) 19

Applicant: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Request: First Round Pass of £2,517,900, including Development Grant of £247,000

Project: To restore a listed garden of international importance and protect it for future generations. The Project would create a working Bothy Yard, create apprentice and volunteer opportunities and support skills development. The project would also enable new interpretation, exhibitions and access to improve visitor experience. The historical nature of the planting in the garden would be re-established and habitat management and biodiversity of the area explored.

The Committee for Northern Ireland recommended the project to the Board as a **HIGH** priority for support.

20. Communications Report

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The Committee noted the report.

21. Parks for People Overview

CNI 2018 (4) 21

The Committee noted the report.

22. Any other business

Oral

The Committee would seek to meet in January 2018 to discuss strategy for the New Year.

The next meeting will be held on 5 March 2019