

The linen bleachers statue in Lurgan.

Almost £2million of National Lottery funding has been awarded to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ABC Council) to regenerate Lurgan's historic town centre.

Lurgan, County Armagh, was once a thriving market town with an architectural heritage dating back to the 17th century. But today many of the historic buildings which give the town centre its unique character have fallen into disrepair and are underused or vacant.

The new five-year Townscape Heritage project will support the repair and conservation of 25 historic properties within the town's Conservation Area. It will bring back into sustainable use much-needed, valuable commercial floorspace and provide new residential accommodation opportunities.

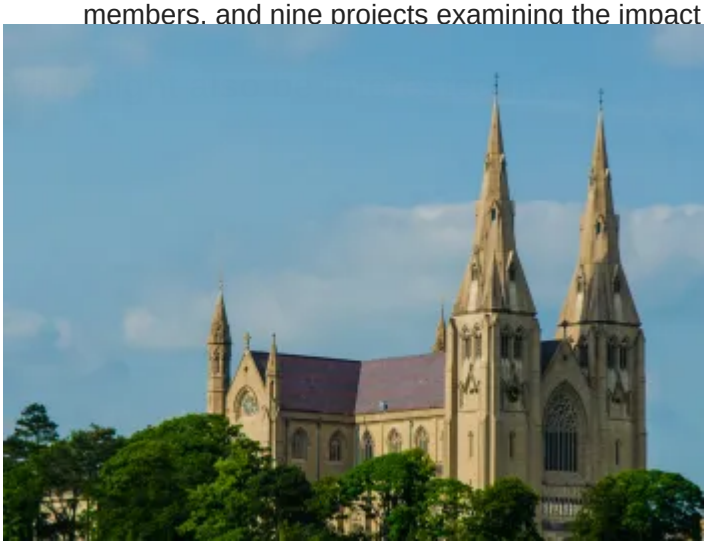
[quote= Head of HLF for Northern Ireland, Paul Mullan]"This heritage-led regeneration will transform Lurgan's historic streetscape, helping to attract new residents and businesses to the town centre and boost the local economy."[/quote]

A programme of 50 events and activities will help attract new visitors to the town centre to celebrate its unique heritage, revitalising the area and promoting Lurgan as a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Announcing the award, Head of HLF for Northern Ireland, Paul Mullan, said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, this heritage-led regeneration will transform Lurgan's historic streetscape, helping to attract new residents and businesses to the town centre and boost the local economy."

Transforming local places

- The ABC Council area was chosen as a priority development area by HLF in 2013
- HLF worked closely with local groups and organisations to help develop good heritage projects that brought a range of benefits to the local community
- Thanks to National Lottery players, HLF has invested more than £6m and supported 34 projects in the area over the last five years
- Projects so far include the Armagh Robinson Library, Armagh Pipers Club which traced the musical heritage of its members, and nine projects examining the impact and legacy of the First World War



St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ACDC)



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Lurgan in 1907



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National Lottery support keeps memories of Tiger Bay burning bright