Work to begin on Merthyr Tydfil's Old Town Hall

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Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association is leading the £8m project to restore the 112 year old building so it can be used as a cultural and creative industries centre for the local community and as a social focal point for the town.

Graham Construction has been appointed the main contractor for the restoration and has a team on site in Merthyr Tydfil so work can start immediately.

The project has already received backing from the Welsh Government's Heads of the Valleys Programme, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

The EU investment completes the funding package needed for work to start on the grade II* listed building which has been derelict for over 10 years.

Deputy Minister for European Programmes, Alun Davies, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to back this initiative with EU funds so that work can begin on this exciting project which will instil renewed pride in the community and bring further economic and social opportunities for people living in the area."

When the works are completed the refurbished building will have over 2,500 square metres of floor space, including offices, rehearsal spaces, studios and work spaces for visual, performing arts and media. It will accommodate events such as music concerts, theatre and dance performances and exhibitions.

Karen Dusgate, Chief Executive of the Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association, said: “We feel this is such an incredible achievement – to finally secure all the funding we need so we are in a position where we can start the construction phase. Now the really exciting work starts. Local people will be able to see how we are transforming this wonderful building so it can be the catalyst for the regeneration of the town centre.”

HLF has invested £2million into the project, Dr Manon Williams, Chair of HLF Wales, said: "It is fantastic to see the final piece of funding secured so work can now start on bringing this historic building back to life, while responding to the community’s need for a dedicated cultural centre.”

Martin Flynn, Project Manager for Graham Construction, said: “It’s a great honour and a privilege to be working with the Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association to restore this fine and historic building to its former glory.”