

**Shaping the future – for heritage, for everyone:
Consultation on the Heritage Lottery Fund’s Strategic Framework for 2013-2019**

How are you responding to this consultation?	As an individual or group on behalf of a group of organisations
Please specify which organisation	
Please specify which group of organisations	Historic Towns Forum We are an independent umbrella organisation for Local Authorities, Corporate Bodies, Civic Societies, and other interested members from across the heritage sector. Our focus is the historic built environment.
Name	Noël James
Organisation	Historic Towns Forum
Job title	Director
Address	University of the West of England
Postcode	BS16 1RZ
Telephone	0117 9750459
Email	Noel.James@uwe.ac.uk
Question 1a - To what extent do you agree or disagree we should express our current three strategic aims of conservation, participation and learning as a single aim in future - 'making a positive and lasting difference for heritage and people'?	Strongly agree
Question 1b - Why do you say that?	It would simplify the process of understanding for applicants and promote a more inclusive and flexible approach for applicants while still promoting the original, essential three aims.
Question 2a - In 2010-2011 we expect to make awards totalling around £128m through our open programmes (Heritage Grants and Your Heritage) and £70m through targeted programmes and strategic initiatives. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should target more funds to identified strategic needs and reduce the amount of funding available through open programmes?	Tend to agree
Question 2b - Why do you say that?	We think that while there is certainly scope to target strategic threads for funding that might not otherwise have fitted well into an open grants programme, yet might still deserve funding which would benefit the heritage sector, there is a balance to be struck to maintain fairness for the open grants programme. It might be wise to agree a ring-fenced amount for targeted funding in advance so that it is a separate pot from open grants.
Question 3a - To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should solicit applications more frequently, in order to focus our funding on strategic priorities for heritage?	Tend to agree

Question 3b - Why do you say that?	Again we think that a balance needs to be struck between solicited applications and open applications so that fairness is maintained. We see though that there would be advantage to the heritage sector in general and specific terms were solicited applications to be encouraged. Again the funding might be ringfenced so that they are separate pots.
Question 4a - To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should give priority to funding for heritage identified as being 'at risk'?	Tend to agree
Question 4b - Why do you say that?	Again though, a balance should be struck. It is clear that HLF will to some degree be expected to fill in funding gaps and roles left by the funding cuts to English Heritage and so on, but care should be taken that this does not become the only role for HLF in the future. It is important to save heritage at risk but HLF should be careful again that a semblance of fairness remains between what is seen to be funds for 'priority' heritage and for open applications for more 'general' heritage. If a body has made an application, then that heritage is a priority for them.
Question 5a - Taking account of the achievements of Lottery funding since 2002, what areas of heritage (if any) do you consider to be still in need of funding? PLEASE REFER TO THE CHARTS SHOWING HLF'S CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS	
Archaeology	Some funding need
Archives	Some funding need
Cultures and memories, languages and dialects	Some funding need
Historic buildings and monuments	Significant funding need
Industrial heritage	Significant funding need
Landscapes	Significant funding need
Library collections	Some funding need
Museums and collections	Significant funding need
Parks	Some funding need
Places of worship	Significant funding need
Ships and maritime heritage	Some funding need
Transport heritage	Some funding need
Wildlife and nature conservation	Significant funding need

<p>Question 5b - Please explain your answers above</p>	<p>Historic Towns Forum is concerned mainly with the historic built environment and the historic environment more generally and from its daily work in these areas is aware that built heritage continues to suffer a funding shortfall and that this is an issue of great concern to the sector. Public funding cuts to bodies such as English Heritage and Local Authorities put the historic environment at even greater risk. Significant funding will always be needed in these areas.</p>
<p>Question 6a - How important are the following aspects of how we currently work as a Lottery funder?</p> <p>A. Working closely with organisations and responding to needs at local level as well as operating within a UK-wide strategic framework</p>	<p>Essential</p>
<p>Question 6b - Why do you say that?</p>	<p>Applicants will have varying levels of skill and experience - support and communication throughout the grant administration process is helpful, appreciated, and absolutely necessary to ensure the best possible project standards are reached and maintained, and also to ensure consistency and fairness throughout the application and administration process.</p>
<p>Question 6a - How important are the following aspects of how we currently work as a Lottery funder?</p> <p>B. Providing support (as described) to applicants and grantees throughout the grant administration process</p>	<p>Essential</p>
<p>Question 6b - Why do you say that?</p>	<p>Applicants will have varying levels of skill and experience - support and communication throughout the grant administration process is helpful, appreciated, and absolutely necessary to ensure the best possible project standards are reached and maintained, and also to ensure consistency and fairness throughout the application and administration process.</p>
<p>Question 6a - How important are the following aspects of how we currently work as a Lottery funder?</p> <p>C. Locally based help to organisations less experienced in making applications</p>	<p>Fairly important</p>
<p>Question 6b - Why do you say that?</p>	<p>Under the new Localism agenda this is an interesting idea - but is this different to the previous local help given by development teams? If all projects still have access to development teams this may not be necessary, but what might be interesting as a pilot is using other locally-based bodies with HLF sanction to carry out this work.</p>
<p>Question 7a - Has your organisation ever received a grant from HLF?</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>Question 7b - In what year?</p> <p>COMPLETE ONLY IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' IN Q7A (if you have received several, please give the most recent, or if you cannot recall the exact year, please write in the approximate year)</p>	
<p>Question 7c - Under which funding programme?</p>	
<p>Question 7d - Has your organisation ever applied for a grant from HLF?</p> <p>COMPLETE ONLY IF YOU ANSWERED 'NO' IN Q7A</p>	No
<p>Question 7e - In what year?</p> <p>COMPLETE ONLY IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' IN Q7D (if you have applied for several, please give the most recent, or if you cannot recall the exact year, please write in the approximate year)</p>	
<p>Question 7f - Under which funding programme?</p>	
<p>Question 8a - Which of the statements below most closely reflects your opinion of the amount of work involved in the application process, bearing in mind that Lottery money is public funding?</p>	
<p>Question 8b - Why do you say that?</p>	
<p>Question 9 - What more could we do to improve our current grant-making processes?</p>	Shorter assessment periods would be helpful. Consideration, to some degree, of funding core activities may also be necessary in the current financial climate.
<p>Question 10 - We focus our development work on geographic areas and communities who may not have applied to us before with the aim of encouraging good-quality applications. In deciding on a local basis where to focus these resources in future, to what extent do you agree or disagree that we should take account of the following:</p>	
<p>A. Geographical areas that have received least funding from us in the past (e.g. local authority areas)</p>	Tend to agree
<p>B. Social groups that have benefited least from our funding in the past (e.g. people with disabilities, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, Lower socio-economic groups)</p>	Tend to agree
<p>C. Types of heritage that have benefited least from our funding in the past (e.g. archives, land and biodiversity, industrial, maritime and transport heritage)</p>	Tend to agree

<p>Question 11a - Which one of the following statements best reflects your view?</p> <p>A. HLF should give more priority to ensuring the financial sustainability of an organisation that has already received Lottery money, to build on what has already been achieved, rather than new projects.</p> <p>B. HLF should give more priority to new projects that will bring new and different benefits, rather than to projects that have already received Lottery money.</p> <p>C. HLF should aim to strike a balance between the two.</p> <p>None of these</p> <p>Don't know</p>	<p>HLF should aim to strike a balance between the two</p>
<p>Question 11b - Why do you say that?</p>	<p>While we agree that it is laudable to ensure that previous projects are able to maintain financial sustainability, this should not be at the cost of new projects.</p>
<p>Question 12a - As a Lottery funder, to what extent do you agree or disagree that we should seek to extend our role to build the financial sustainability of voluntary organisations with initiatives to support organisational development?</p>	<p>Tend to disagree</p>
<p>Question 12b - Why do you say that?</p>	<p>This should only apply where the skills etc needed are directly linked to the heritage or to heritage projects. Heritage organisations may need help in these areas but this help should be built into projects. One way around this may be to develop a time-limited policy strand whereby HLF offers this service/training to heritage organisations related to certain policy areas (such as Localism, Neighbourhood Development Plans etc) where it can be shown that lack of help in these areas will directly and adversely affect the heritage.</p>
<p>Question 13 - What role should HLF play to encourage philanthropy and more private supporters for heritage at all levels?</p>	<p>Helping heritage organisations to engage successfully with their supporters is a good place to start, as are match-funding initiatives. Also useful could be facilitating stronger links between the private and public sector - perhaps a similar model to Arts & Business but focusing on the heritage. Raising awareness in the private sector that heritage can drive tourism and enterprise is a necessary exercise. Good cases studies for philanthropy (wider than the UK - where, why and how is it successful overseas?) might also be helpful.</p>
<p>Question 14 - What more could HLF do to help achieve a thriving and resilient heritage community in future?</p>	<p>Capacity building; awareness raising; sound evidential bases; more equitable funding.</p>
<p>Question 15 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with a simplified approach to grants under £10,000?</p>	<p>Strongly agree</p>

Question 16 - To what extent do you agree or disagree we should offer a medium sized grants programme with a single round application process?	Strongly agree
Question 17 - What should the upper threshold be for an open, single round community heritage programme starting at £10,000?	200000
Question 17 - Other (write amount in)	
Question 18 - Do you have any other comments on small and medium sized grants?	It will still be essential to maintain adequate monitoring of projects.
Question 19 - What should our requirements for partnership funding contributions be after 2013?	Stay the same as they are now
Question 20 - Do you have any overall comments on our Heritage Grants programme?	It seems to work well as it does currently.
Question 21a To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following continue to be the right priorities for our targeted programmes?	
Young people	Strongly agree
Landscapes	Strongly agree
Parks	Strongly agree
Places of worship	Strongly agree
Townscape regeneration	Strongly agree
Question 21b - Please explain your answers above	There is clearly public appetite for this range of priorities and through the work of HTF we have seen many instances of successful programmes in most of those areas, and can see the value of all.
Question 22a - What should the upper limit for Young Roots grants be?	50000
Question 22a - Other (please write amount in)	
Question 22b - How could our Young Roots programme be improved?	No view
Question 23 - What are your thoughts on our proposals for the Landscape Partnerships programme? How could they be improved?	We are in agreement with the proposals.
Question 24 - What are your thoughts on our proposals for the Parks for People programme? How could they be improved?	We are in agreement with the proposals. We are in agreement that public cemeteries should be included within the programme. It is interesting that more Local Authorities have not applied. Is it a capacity issue or awareness issue? Perhaps this programme needs firmer targeting.
Question 25 - What are your thoughts on our proposals for supporting places of worship? How could they be improved?	We are in general agreement with the proposals but think clarity will be needed if including community use and involvement in a programme that was previously primarily for urgent repairs. It might make more sense to keep the Places of Worship scheme as is to avoid confusion of purpose of grant, and to introduce a specific smaller grants programme (such as Your Heritage) for the community use and involvement element. Although presumably interested groups could still apply in any case under Your Heritage?
Question 26a - To what extent do you agree that heritage-led regeneration should continue to be a focus for HLF?	Strongly agree

Question 26b - How can HLF best support place-based heritage, and communities' engagement with it?	We do not think that the THI programme should be abandoned, but perhaps adapted in light of the funding climate and the Localism agenda. HTF attended the recent THI focus group in Nottingham in April, and gave fuller opinions on that occasion.
Question 27a - How strong would you say your support for our proposals to address climate change is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?	5
Question 27b - Why do you say that?	Climate change is a pressing issue for the historic built environment and needs to be addressed, and supported through funding.
Question 28a - How strong would you say your support for our proposals for digital heritage is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?	5
Question 28b - Why do you say that?	Many groups need support in terms of digital projects, digitising material, gaining and providing digital access for their users, and engaging in a digital age. Heritage organisations need to be on a level playing field with other organisations in different sectors, and HLF's approach will help them to adapt.
Question 28c - What types of heritage should be priorities for digitisation, and why?	No view
Question 28d - What types of innovation are most important for HLF to fund, and why?	Apps to understand the historic environment might be useful
Question 29a - How strong is your support for our proposal to run further targeted initiatives on skills in future, on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?	5
Question 29b - Why do you say that?	Training and expertise in heritage skills (traditional and otherwise) have always been, and remain, an area of underfunding and of shortage. HLF is to be applauded for continuing to try to fill this gap.
Question 29c - What skills should be priorities for our support in a future initiative, and why?	Traditional heritage and conservation skills seem always to suffer a shortfall, and due to the relatively poor remuneration in this sector, along with cuts, are likely to continue to. Cuts to Conservation and Archaeology posts in Local Authorities and coming government initiatives suggest that some of this work may fall to interested communities. It is therefore in the interests of the sector to ensure that there are opportunities for those skills to be retained, or re-introduced, on a regular basis.
Question 29d - What role could or should HLF play in helping the passing on of knowledge and skills within the sector?	Funding of bursaries/apprenticeships; online toolkits; dedicated, regular training events around certain skills.
Question 30a - To what extent should HLF do more to support heritage in private ownership?	Just a little

Question 30b - Why do you say that?	While establishing links with the private sector are important, and this may be one way to raise awareness of this, HLF money is public funds and great care should be taken in using public money to assist private landlords. We think the points made above by HLF though are fair, and cautious.
Question 31a - To what extent do you consider the purchase of heritage items in future to be important?	Very important
Question 31b - Why do you say that?	Where items in a collection or to be added to a collection can demonstrate specific heritage value then it is important that they be retained for the future.
Question 31c - How strong would you say your support for our proposal to simplify the process for urgent acquisitions is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?	4
Question 31d - How strong would you say your support for our proposal for a new Collecting Cultures initiative is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?	4
Question 31e - How strong would you say your support for our proposal for mainstreaming the principle behind Collecting Cultures within our general grants programmes is on a scale of one to five where one means your support is very weak and five means it is very strong?	3
Question 31f - Why do you say that?	We feel that mainstreaming the process in order to simplify it may muddy the waters - it may encourage less important applications but it may also damage the chances of more at risk applications.
Question 32a - Overall what do you think HLF has done particularly well?	Raising awareness of heritage generally while increasing public access and understanding of heritage.
Question 32b - And what should we change?	Some processes need to be simplified and more flexibility given in certain instances concerning what bodies may apply for funding.
Question 32c - Please give us your views on any other issues you would like to raise with us.	It would be helpful if organisations were able to discuss funding opportunities or projects that might fall out of traditional schemes - i.e. those to do with policy, or incoming government agenda.