



CHALLENGE FUND FOR HISTORIC BUILDINGS AT RISK IN ENGLAND

GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

1. Background

1.1 The Challenge Fund for Historic Buildings At Risk in England is funded jointly by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and English Heritage, each of whom is contributing £1million over five years from 2011– 2016. The £2million Fund is managed and administered by The Architectural Heritage Fund, to whom all applications and enquiries should be directed. Please do not contact English Heritage or the ALW Foundation direct.

1.2. The 'Challenge Fund' is intended to act as pump-priming support for projects undertaken by charities and voluntary sector organisations tackling Grade I and II* listed buildings at risk in England.

1.3 Applications will only be considered from registered charities or other not-for-profit organisations. Public bodies, private individuals, commercial owners and developers are not eligible.

2. Criteria

2.1 **Projects** must involve the restoration and viable new use of a building which is in England and which is listed at Grade I or Grade II*, and is on the English Heritage 'Heritage At Risk' register.

2.2 **Applicants** must be a registered charity, including but not limited to building preservation trusts (BPTs), Groundwork Trusts and Development Trusts or a not-for-profit entity such as a Community Interest Company (CIC).

2.3 The 'Challenge' aspect of the Fund is intended to encourage applications in particular from organisations that have been inactive for some years or have not previously undertaken a project involving a Grade I or II* building. Examples could include a BPT which last carried out a project more than ten years ago, or a

Development Trust or Groundwork Trust which has not carried out a building restoration project.

Applications will also be considered for projects which have 'stalled' and where an investment such as this could lead to it being re-started.

2.4 In order to qualify for support projects will involve either two organisations working in partnership, with the more experienced one in a 'mentoring' role to the other; or an organisation bringing in an experienced project organiser to work with them.

2.5 The maximum grant per project is £200,000 but it is expected that most grants will be for less than this.

2.6 Projects must involve a sustainable new use for a building which benefits the wider community. It is unlikely that projects which have a wholly commercial or private residential end use will be considered; however, mixed uses including some commercial space will be eligible.

2.7 Initial options appraisals and development work must already have been undertaken for the project, with potential uses tested, an outline business plan produced and the likely capital costs established.

2.8 Grants can be used for or towards any of the following:

- Construction costs
- Professional fees
- Applicants' own costs (up to a maximum of 10% of any grant awarded)

2.9 Where applicants hold an endowment or other source of funds which could be put towards a project, they will be expected to make an appropriate contribution towards the overall project costs.

3 Application Procedure

3.1 Because of the very specialised nature of this Fund, applicants should in the first instance send an expression of interest, with brief details of the project building, studies already completed, funding gap and potential partnership, outlining how the project would meet the criteria listed above. This initial application should be **no more than two pages of A4** and should be sent by email or by post (see below).

3.2 All expressions of interest will be assessed within four weeks of receipt at the AHF's office. Applicants will then be informed as to whether they are being invited to submit a formal application, in which case an application form and request for further information will be sent, or, if the application is being rejected, the grounds on which this has been decided.

3.3 Formal applications for support will be assessed quarterly, jointly by the AHF's senior management and by English Heritage's Head of Operations. All grants would be subject to final approval by both the AHF and English Heritage.

3.4 All projects which proceed to the formal application stage will be visited by a member of the AHF's staff and/or a representative of English Heritage.

3.5 Successful applicants will be able to claim grants on production of valid invoices or statements of eligible expenditure.

3.6 The Architectural Heritage Fund reserves the right to withdraw an offer or ask for funding to be returned if it becomes clear that any information provided as part of an application is inaccurate or deliberately misleading.

Expressions of interest should be sent to:

Ian Lush, Chief Executive, The Architectural Heritage Fund, Alhambra House,
27-31 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0AU

or by email to: ian.lush@ahfund.org.uk