



**Report to the Planning & Urban Form
Strategic Policy Committee February 2023.
No. 5 on the Agenda**

Built Heritage Grant Schemes

Introduction

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund are administered by local authorities on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. In 2023, the Department is providing combined funding of €9 million nationally representing a significant investment in the preservation of Ireland's built heritage.

Each year the Conservation Section, Planning and Property Development Department, oversees the grant schemes within the Dublin City Council administrative area, supporting the owners and occupiers of Protected Structures and structures in Architectural Conservation Areas to carry out conservation repairs to their buildings.

The grant schemes are managed by the Architectural Conservation Officers with invaluable support provided by the Conservation Administration team. City Architects also provide essential assistance in the running of the scheme including the assessment of applications and the inspection of grant projects. A number of external conservation professionals are also engaged as Grant Inspectors to allow the Conservation Section to complete the significant number of projects within the short timeframe available each year.

Each project is inspected prior to provisional grant approval and works commencing, with advice provided to the applicant on methodologies any relevant statutory requirements. The projects are inspected again on completion of works to approve payment of agreed grant funding.

Recoupment of funding under both schemes is undertaken in October and November of each year and involves significant input from our administration and finance colleagues.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

The first avenue of funding is the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. In addition to supporting owners of historic structures to safeguard and maintain their properties, this funding also supports skilled heritage craftspeople including conservation roofers, joiners and plasterers. The Built Heritage Investment Scheme provides grants of from €2,500 to €15,000 with smaller grants available under a Micro Repairs Stream

In 2023, DCC has received grant aid of €492,800 and have recently forwarded 64 projects for approval by the Department.

In 2022:

- €503,800.00 in grant aid was provided (which included additional funding of €11,000 provided in late 2022).
- A total of 50 conservation projects were completed
- €1,290,399 was spent on conservation repairs (including €786,599 of privately leveraged funds).
- 2370 days of employment were created.

In 2021:

- €385,231 in grant aid was provided
- 63 conservation projects were completed
- €1,512,206 was spent in total on conservation repairs (including €1,126,947 of privately leveraged funds)
- 2967 days of employment were created

Historic Structures Fund

The second avenue of funding is the Historic Structures Fund. The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is the conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the broader benefit of communities and the public and is not generally applicable to private houses. The scheme is highly competitive with projects from Dublin City Council's administrative area competing on a national basis.

The scheme allows applications under a number of different streams:

Stream 1 – Comprises grants from €15,000 to €50,000 aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of heritage structures.

Stream 1 Historic Shopfronts Sub-stream – This sub-stream aims to incentivise the conservation of historic shopfronts to safeguard and keep them in use.

Stream 2 – Comprises grants from €50,000 to €200,000 for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures where a clear community or residential benefit can be demonstrated.

Vernacular Structures Stream – Comprises grants from €5,000 to €10,000 for projects falling under the Department’s ‘Strategy for Built Vernacular’. The purpose of this scheme is to support conservation repairs and small capital works to structures that are not Protected Structures.

Dublin City Council received twenty applications by the closing date for HSF 2023. Following assessment of these applications by the Conservation Section and based on the criteria set out by the Department, seven projects were submitted for approval by the Department.

In 2022:

- A total of 18 applications were received by Dublin City Council
- Five projects were successful namely three Stream 1 projects and Stream 2 projects
- These projects received a total of €350,000.00 in funding

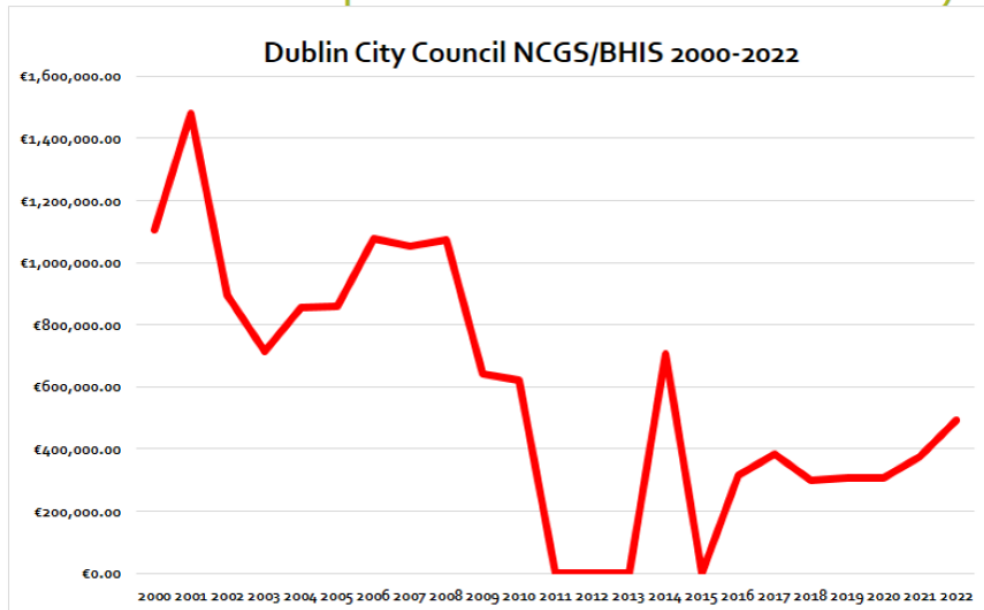
In 2021:

- A total of 18 applications were received by Dublin City Council
- Four projects were successful namely four Stream 1 projects, one of which was from the Historic Shopfronts sub-stream
- These projects received a total of €174,250 in funding

In 2020:

- A total of 18 applications were received by Dublin City Council
- Two projects were successful namely two Stream 1 projects
These projects received a total of €60,000 in funding

Grant Funding over the years (still at 54% reduction compared to 2008 allocation)



Types of Works

Funding can be applied to carry out a wide range of works including repair of the external envelope/structure, internal works to historic plasterwork/joinery and energy efficiency improvements. In recent years grant funded projects administered by Dublin City Council have ranged from HSF funding provided to St Patrick's Cathedral to aid the reroofing of the structure down to grant aiding the replacement of a cast-iron downpipe on a structure in an ACA under the BHIS Minor Repairs stream.

Grant funding has been allocated to buildings on the Council's Buildings at Risk register, which has aided them to move out of endangerment. Aldborough House on Portland Row has received grant funding over a number of years to aid in repairing and safeguarding the structure's historic fabric including its roof, stonework and windows. In 2023, it is hoped to grant fund further works to repair the historic sash windows. 1 Arran Quay was grant funded in 2022 to aid with structural repairs to the upper level of the structure. This is nearing completion, with the reintroduction of a traditional wigged joint to the front elevation, which will have a highly positive impact on the historic character of the North Quays. Other examples include the historic shopfront to 16 Denmark Street Great, which was repaired in 2021.

On occasion funding has been offered to owners to address works which are subject to enforcement notices, if timelines permit and following agreement with the enforcement officer.

Brief Overview of Examples of Recent Projects

Happy Ring House, 3 O'Connell Street Upper, Dublin 1

In 2021 refurbishment works were carried out to the c.1950 animated neon signs to the front façade comprising lettering reading 'The Happy Ring House' and image below of newly-weds and bow with bells and a ring. These works were funded under the BHIS.



In 2022, BHIS funding was granted to refurbish the clock to the front elevation of the structure.



26 Montpelier Hill, Dublin 7

26 Montpelier Hill has received grant funding in 2020, 2021, 2022 and has applied for funding in 2023. This structure had been in commercial use from the 1960s until the current owners purchased it in 2022. Grant funding has aided the return of the building to residential use and it is an excellent example of how the conservation grants can be used to aid home owners maintain their buildings as well as carry out larger works helping restore the structure's historic character. In 2020 funding was granted for essential works at roof level and to rainwater goods, with funding also assigned to internal structural works. In 2021 and 2022 funding was used to reinstate historically correct timber sash windows, firstly to opes in the rear and west elevations and then to the front elevation. It is hoped to complete reinstatement of sash windows to the front elevation in 2023.





ACA Projects – DeCourcey Square, Dublin 9

Funding is available to structures in Architectural Conservation Areas and has been awarded in a few instances to enable works that safeguard or reinstate features contributing the special character of the ACA. In DeCourcey Square, funding has been provided to aid the reinstatement of appropriate timber sash windows and to repair a historic door. It is hoped that these examples will encourage more owners of structures within ACA's to see the benefits of conserving original character and appropriate reinstatement.



George Bernard Shaw House, 33 Synge Street, Dublin 8

In 2021 grant funding was awarded to re-roof much of No. 33 Synge Street, the birthplace of George Bernard Shaw. The building is owned by Dublin City Council.





Price's Medical Hall, 26 Clare Street, Dublin 2

This building is highly significant as a surviving late eighteenth-century former house with a spectacular Victorian shopfront to the front façade. In 2020 grant funding was sought to address structural issues which were particularly evident to the shopfront. Opening up works revealed the problem to be much more significant than originally envisaged and emergency temporary works were installed while further investigations were carried out to determine a programme of repair. In 2021 €50,000 was awarded through the Shopfront stream of the Historic Structures Fund to address the structural issues immediately above the shopfront and repair the shopfront itself. It is hoped that grant funding in 2023, under the Historic Structures Fund, will address further structural issues to the brick façade above the shopfront and the repointing the brickwork in a traditional wiggled joint.



Saint Audeon's Church of Ireland Church, High Street, Dublin 8

Saint Audeon's Church has received grant aid towards repair of the church each year since 2017, which has allowed significant repairs to be carried out including the full repointing of the tower. Funding has been awarded under both the BHIS and HSF.

