



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

An Roinn Pleanála agus Forbartha Maoine¹
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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Report to the Planning & Urban Form Strategic Policy Committee April 2024. No. 4 on the Agenda

Conservation 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 2024, 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 support provided by the Conservation Administration team. 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 2024, DCC has received grant aid of €492,800, with 68 projects approval for funding from a total applications of 114.

In 2023:

- €492,800.00 in grant aid was provided.
- A total of 51 conservation projects were completed
- €1,719,939.43 was spent on conservation repairs (including €1,227,139.43 of privately leveraged funds).

- 2616 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 forty-one applications by the closing date for HSF 2024. Following assessment of these applications by the Conservation Section and based on the criteria set out by the Department, five projects were submitted for approval by the Department. We received approval for three of these and have two projects carrying over from 2023, including reslating of The Red Stables in St Anne's Park.

In 2023:

- A total of 20 applications were received by Dublin City Council
- Seven projects were successful - three Stream 1 projects, two Stream 2 projects and two Shopfront projects. One project had been carried over from 2023
- €373,374.99 in grant aid provided
- 835.25 employment days created for skilled conservation practitioners and professionals
- €196,219.47 of private funds into the conservation construction economy
- €569,697.46 total expenditure on repairs to historic buildings
- The two Stream 2 projects have carried over into 2024.

2024 Successful Projects

The list of successful grant projects for 2024 is available on the Dublin City Council website

Brief Overview of Examples of Recent Projects

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, which was constructed in the 1820s, had been in commercial use from the 1960s until the current owners purchased it in 2020. 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, 2022 and 2023 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. Further grant funding is being provided in 2024 for works to the historic front door and surround.





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. In 2023, €40,000 was received under the Historic Structures Fund, to address structural issues to the brick façade above the shopfront and repointing of the brickwork in a traditional wiggled joint.





17 Fade Street, Dublin 2

In 2021, funding was granted for the repair and reinstatement of unstable and missing decorative elements at roof level including the fabrication of three new terracotta finials. In 2023, funding was granted for the repointing and repair of the brick elevations to Fade Street and Drury Street including the terracotta decorative elements. It was discovered on inspection that the brickwork had historically been pointed in a black pigmented mortar, known as lamp black. It is hoped that this project will provide an exemplar for the wider Markets complex, in tandem with the grant-funded works to 20 Exchequer Street.





St Kevin's Church, Harrington Street, Dublin 8

Funding was granted in 2023 for the restoration of the historic Hiberno Neo-Gothic stencil decoration and associated minor repair works to the interior of the church, together with the removal of inappropriate sand cement pointing to the exterior of the church and its replacement with a more appropriate lime-based material. The internal works involved the removal of monotone blue over-painting revealing the historic stencil-work on the walls and ceiling of the chapel. In 2024, funding has been approved for repair of the stone tracery to the east gable window.



ACA Projects – DeCoursey 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 DeCoursey 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 the original character of an ACA and appropriate reinstatement of features.



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