

Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the North West Meeting on 11 March 2016

CNW 2016 (1)

Summary report of the meeting held at 9.45 a.m. in the Committee Room at Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD on Friday 11 March 2016.

Members:

- Tiffany Hunt (Chair)
- Jim Dixon (Trustee)
- Steve Garland
- Aileen McEvoy
- Ivan Wadeson
- Humphrey Welfare

Apologies:

- Bill Maynard

Observers:

- Sue Beardsmore
- Nigel de Noronha
- Stephen Welsh

Committee Business

1. Welcomes and apologies

Oral

Tiffany Hunt, Chair of the Committee for the North West, welcomed Nigel de Noronha and Stephen Welsh to the meeting. They were attending the meeting in an observational capacity in advance of joining the Committee as members from 1 April 2016. She also welcomed Sue Beardsmore to the meeting. Sue was a current member of the Committee for the West Midlands and would be taking up appointment as the Chair from 1 April.

Bill Maynard's term of appointment would end on 31 March 2016. Sadly he was unable to attend the meeting. The Committee expressed their thanks for all his hard work and noted, in particular, his contribution to Oldham Old Baths Heritage Enterprise scheme, which was opening at the end of March. The Committee also wished to record their thanks to Charlotte Hazlewood who had recently left HLF after 10 years of service.

2. Chair's Report

Oral

The Chair reported that she and Sara Hilton she had attended a conference in Manchester in early December on Reviving Places, which had been organised by the HLF, the Princes Regeneration

Trust and Historic England. She and Sara had also held a successful and well-attended meeting with MPs at Portcullis House at the House of Commons on 3 February.

3. Minutes from the meeting held on 24 November 2015

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The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Oral

Reimagining Wordsworth had been awarded a grant at the Board meeting in January. The Trustee for the North West reported that the Board paper was very clear and well presented, which helped give the Board confidence in the scheme and award a first round pass on a challenging day of cases.

5. North West Overview

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Sara Hilton, Head of HLF North West, presented the Overview.

The Monastery Manchester

The Committee agreed a change in grant percentage from 58% to 56%.

A number of significant project openings were taking place in the North West during the next quarter. These include the Daniel Adamson, Norton Priority, Hawarth Art Gallery and Restoring the Roch.

The first Heritage Enterprise scheme to open in the North West and England, Ashton (Old) Baths, would be opening on 19 March.

The Committee would be discussing two cases as recommendations between meetings for May Board.

6. North West Budget

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Sally Smith, Casework Manager, gave an update on how the budget had been spent over 2015-16.

Six first-round Heritage Grant applications totalling £8,818,200 were received against a first round pass budget of £2,238,100. Committee members would need to prioritise which projects to support.

Four second-round applications were also received totalling £3,862,300 and a grant increase application for £45,000. These could be awarded should the Committee deem that they met the quality threshold and provided good value for money.

7. Declarations of interest

Oral

Aileen McEvoy declared a conflict of interest in Charles Roe House Arts & Cultural Centre (item 10), Macclesfield. She was a Trustee of the Barnaby Festival who had provided a letter of support and had prior knowledge and sight of the application.

Steve Garland declared an interest in Mere Sands Wood for people and wildlife together (item 13) as Chair of the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, the applicant organisation.

Ivan Wadson declared an interest in Oldham Heritage and Arts Centre (item 25). He had undertaken paid consultancy work with his previous employer on the project.

Stephen Welsh, who was attending the meeting as an observer, declared an interest in item 21, The Courtyard Project as he was an employee of the applicant, the Manchester Museum.

Humphrey Welfare mentioned a connection to item 22, Heritage and Hope. The Churches Conservation Trust, of which he was a Trustee, was the former owner of the building. The Committee were content that this did not constitute a conflict of interests.

Tiffany Hunt mentioned that the National Trust, of which she was a former employee, were on the steering group of item 19, South Pennines. The Committee were content that this did not constitute a conflict of interests.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage

Grants

8. Creation of new build Aviation Heritage centre

CNW 2016 (1) 8

Solway Aviation Society Ltd sought a first round pass of £1,961,200 including a development grant of £114,400 (68% of total eligible development costs) to acquire the current museum land to create a new build Aviation Heritage Centre. The new building would re-house and redisplay the existing collection and existing buildings would also be repaired. Improved visitor facilities would be provided alongside a new education and volunteering programme.

The Committee for the North West rejected the project due to concerns raised.

9. From Parlour to Parliament - The Pankhurst

CNW 2016 (1) 9

The Pankhurst Trust (Incorporating Manchester Women's Aid) sought a first round pass of £1,965,700 including a development grant of £289,000 (70% of total eligible development costs) to repair and conserve 60-62 Nelson Street, Manchester, the former home of Emmeline Pankhurst. The scheme would involve the creation of a new interpretation centre, improved visitor facilities and would provide a range of associated activities.

The Committee for the North West considered that the project represented a low priority for support and rejected the application due to concerns raised and in light of the available budget.

10. Charles Roe House Arts & Cultural Centre, Macclesfield

CNW 2016 (1) 10

Incubation @ Charles Roe House Arts & Cultural Centre, Macclesfield sought a first round pass of £1,106,100 including a development grant of £138,300 (90%) to acquire Charles Roe House and the adjacent Derby Villas site to create a leading arts venue. Visitor facilities would be improved, exhibition space created and an associated programme of activities and events would be delivered.

The Committee for the North West rejected the application due to concerns raised.

11. Regenerating Wigan Archives & Local Studies

CNW 2016 (1) 11

Wigan Council sought a first round pass with development funding for a project to regenerate the Archives and Local Studies service for Wigan Borough through the creation of modern archive research and storage facilities. The scheme would be complemented by a wider offer engaging audiences through temporary exhibitions, permanent interpretation and an enhanced volunteering programme.

The Committee for the North West considered that the project represented a high priority for support and awarded a first round pass of £1,371,700 including a development grant of £51,000 (88% of total eligible development costs).

12. Blackburn Cathedral - Revealing the Hidden Heritage

CNW 2016 (1) 12

Blackburn Cathedral sought a first round pass of £1,995,000 including a development grant of £188,200 (85% of total eligible development costs) to redevelop the Cathedral's crypt and undercroft into multi-use conferencing, exhibition, performance and community spaces, improve access and interpretation and conserve the Cathedral's archive. A range of activities including a food festival, exhibitions, a schools programme and training for volunteers would be provided.

The Committee for the North West considered that the project represented a high priority for support but rejected the application in light of the available budget.

13. Mere Sands Wood for people and wildlife together

CNW 2016 (1) 13

Lancashire Wildlife Trust sought a first round pass of £418,500 including a development grant of £6,000 (63%) for a project to convert, update and extend the Mere Sands Wood Reserve visitor centre and its facilities. A new build activity room would be created and the current structure converted into retail space, offices and volunteer rooms. The scheme would also deliver a range of activities to engage new audiences in the natural heritage of the reserve.

The Committee for the North West rejected the application due to concerns raised.

14. Prioritisation of first round items

Oral

During the case by case discussions, the Committee considered that:

- *Regenerating Wigan Archives & Local Studies* (item 11) and *Blackburn Cathedral* (item 12) represented a high priority for support
- *From Parlour to Parliament* (item 9) represented a low priority for support
- *Creation of new build Aviation Heritage centre* (item 8), *Charles Roe House Arts & Cultural Centre* (item 10) and *Mere Sands Wood for people and wildlife together* (item 13) should be rejected.

There was insufficient budget to support both of the high priority items. The Committee discussed the merits of the projects and decided that Wigan Archives was the highest priority for the region currently. Members felt that Blackburn Cathedral could use the opportunity to further enhance their application and would welcome a resubmission.

15. GPOW overview and applications

CNW 2016 (1) 15

In the North West, nine first round applications with a grant request of £1,921,800 were received against a regional budget of £890,025. At the initial sift, Historic England advised that four

applications appeared to be less urgent and these were recommended for rejection (15g-j). The remaining five cases underwent full assessment. Detailed technical advice was provided by Historic England to establish the urgency of the repair works and assessment also looked at how well the applications met outcomes for communities.

The Committee were also asked to consider a grant increase of £32,900 for Bamford United Reform Church; a project currently in delivery.

The Committee made the following decisions:

SF4 Grant Increase

	Project Title	Applicant	DECISION
15a.	Rochdale: Bamford United Reformed Church, Rochdale	Bamford United Reformed Church, Rochdale	AWARD GRANT INCREASE OF £32,900 TO MAKE A TOTAL GRANT OF £217,800 (68% OF TOTAL PROJECT COSTS)

SF4 First Round Applications

	Project Title	Applicant	DECISION
15b.	Sefton - St Nicholas' Church, Blundellsands	St Nicholas Church, Blundellsands	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £225,700 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £19,700 (67% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
15c.	Preston - Seventh Day Adventist Church	Seventh Day Adventist Church, Preston	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £211,900 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £13,500 (77% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
15d.	Liverpool - St Mary's Church, Grassendale	St Mary's Church, Grassendale	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £247,700 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £26,000 (95% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
15e.	Wirral - Ss Peter, Paul & Philomena Project 3	Ss Peter, Paul & Philomena, New Brighton	REJECT
15f.	Hyndburn - St Bartholomew's Church, Great Harwood	St Bartholomew's Church, Great Harwood	FIRST ROUND PASS OF £130,200 INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF £8,500 (65% OF TOTAL ELIGIBLE DEVELOPMENT COSTS)
15g.	Bolton Family Church	Bolton Family Church, Bolton	REJECT
15h.	St Mary in Furness, Barrow-in-Furness	Parish of St Mary in Furness	REJECT
15i.	Our Lady of the Annunciation, Bishop Eton	Our Lady of the Annunciation, Bishop Eton	REJECT
15j.	Sefton - St Andrew's Church, Maghull	St Andrew's Church, Maghull	REJECT

SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

16. Nenthead Chapel Restoration Project

CNW 2016 (1) 16

Nenthead Chapel Enterprises Limited sought funding to purchase and conserve the Grade II listed former Methodist Chapel and bring it back into sustainable use for the benefit of local people and visitors. The project would undertake extensive capital works to restore the physical fabric of the building, conserve heritage features, and fit it out for community use. The restored building would house a café and outlets for local shops, as well as interpretation and space for events and activities.

The Committee for the North West awarded a first round pass of £1,240,100 including a development grant of £134,500 (73% of total eligible project costs) in June 2013. A sizeable uplift of £593,900 (54%) was sought due to a rise in total project costs.

Expert advice was very supportive.

The Committee for the North West awarded a grant of £1,699,500 (90%).

17. Albert Walker Project

CNW 2016 (1) 17

Linacre Methodist Mission (LMM) sought funding to restore the Albert Walker Hall, bringing it back to use as a multi-purpose space. Capital works would include the re-slating of the roof, incorporation of roof lights, cleaning and repointing brickwork and repair of windows. A programme of associated activities including volunteer opportunities, school open days and hard-hat tours would engage people with LLM's heritage.

The Committee for the North West awarded a first round pass of £791,400, including development grant of £78,400 (59% of total eligible development costs) in December 2013. An uplift of £191,300 (27%) was sought due to an increase in project costs.

The Committee for the North West awarded a grant of £904,300 (81%).

18. Tracks of the Ironmasters

CNW 2016 (1) 18

Sustrans sought funding for a three year project to enhance the industrial, social and natural heritage of the 'Track of the Ironmasters' cycle paths in West Cumbria. The project would repair historic industrial features, improve wildlife habitats along the routes and record people's memories of the area. New interpretation would be provided for the cycle routes including display panels and route maps. Training opportunities would be offered including invasive species removal, hedge-laying and lime-based pointing.

The Committee for the North West awarded a first round pass of £739,900 including a development grant of £49,700 (66% of total eligible development costs) in September 2014. An uplift of £169,100 (25%) was sought due to a rise in capital costs and full cost recovery.

The Committee for the North West awarded a grant of £859,300 (68%)

19. South Pennines – Celebrating Our Woodland Heritage

CNW 2016 (1) 19

Pennine Prospects sought funding for a three year project to record the archaeological heritage of the ancient woodlands of the South Pennines and engage new audiences in a programme of outdoor activities. The project would utilise LiDAR and aerial photography data currently held to create a landscape-scale survey of the area. A programme of community activities would be delivered to complement the scheme.

The Committee for the North West awarded a first round pass of £358,900 including a development grant of £40,600 (74% of total eligible development costs) in December 2014. An uplift of £80,900 (25%) was sought due to an increase in the total project costs including an significant increase for a more ambitious programme of Forest School activities.

The Committee for the North West felt the project represented excellent value for money and awarded a grant of £399,200 (79%).

SP3 grant increase applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

20. Into the Future, Saddleworth Museum

CNW 2016 (1) 20

Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery and Community Resource sought a grant increase of £45,000 for their project to redevelop Saddleworth Museum including archive storage and deliver a programme of collection conservation and community engagement opportunities. The grant increase request was a result of unforeseen cost increases and works. Tenders were returned higher than anticipated as the market had picked up considerably. Additionally, the perceived risk in terms of the conditions of the building had increased due to a prolonged period of poor weather, discovery of unforeseen works and the sub-standard quality of the building and extension work over 50 years ago. The Committee for the North West awarded a grant of £1,046,000 (87%) in September 2014.

The Committee for the North West awarded a grant increase of £45,000 to make a total grant of £1,091,000 (87% of total project costs).

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Grants (March Board)

21. The Courtyard Project

CNW 2016 (1) 21

The Manchester Museum sought a first round pass of £4,622,200 including a development grant of £406,400 (80% of total eligible development costs) for a project to remodel space within the Manchester Museum to enable it to host world-class exhibitions of natural history and human cultures, helping the city realise its potential as the focus of the Northern cultural powerhouse. The scheme would also redefine the museum's social purpose by extending health, wellbeing and social inclusion benefits to existing and under-represented audiences.

The Committee for the North West considered that the project represented a high priority (1 of 2) for support. The Board would determine the application in March 2016.

22. Heritage and Hope

CNW 2016 (1) 22

St James in the City Parish County Council sought a first round pass of £2,813,300 including a development grant of £196,400 (88% of total eligible development costs) to restore St James, a Grade II* listed semi-derelict church in Toxteth, Liverpool and repair and reconfigure it to create a number of spaces for heritage activity, community use and worship.

The Committee for the North West considered that the project represented a high priority (2 of 2) for support. The Board would determine the application in March 2016.

Major Projects (April Board)

23. Major Projects Overview

CNW 2016 (1) 23

The Committee noted the report.

24. Rochdale Town Hall Restoration & Revival

CNW 2016 (1) 24

Rochdale Borough Council sought a first round pass of £13,011,300 including a development grant of £735,400 (51% of total eligible development costs) for a project to secure the future of Rochdale Town Hall and transform it into a vibrant and inclusive community hub. The scheme would restore this historic building and its interiors and create a new welcome area with interpretation and learning areas. A series of training opportunities and work placements would be provided.

The Committee for the North West considered that the project represented a high priority for support. The Board would determine the application in April 2016.

SP3 second round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Grants (March Board)

25. Oldham Heritage and Arts Centre

CNW 2016 (1) 25

Oldham Borough Council sought a grant of £3,379,900 (21% of total eligible delivery costs) towards the refurbishment and conversion of a Grade II listed former Victorian library into a new heritage facility for the town. This will include gallery spaces, archive and museum store, multi-functional performance space and café.

The Board awarded a first round pass of £3,995,000, including development funding of £615,100 (60% of total eligible development costs) in November 2012.

Expert advice was very supportive.

The Committee for the North West considered that the project represented a high priority for support. The Board would determine the application in March 2016.

Items for discussion

26. Business planning and strategy update

Oral

Sue Bowers, Deputy Director of Operations, provided an update on business planning and strategy.

The Board had discussed the needs of the heritage sector at the meeting in February. There would be a major focus on resilience going forward and skills for the sector. The Catalyst Endowment programme would run again in 2016-17 and a young people's initiative would be implemented next year. More emphasis would also be placed on HLF's corporate priority on inclusion and diversity. This would give priority to development areas and BAME led organisations in decision making.

Items for information

27. Communications Report

CNW 2016 (1) 27

The Committee noted the item.

28. Update on Priority Development Areas

CNW 2016 (1) 28

This discussion was postponed until the June Committee meeting.

29. Corporate Update

Oral

The Committee noted the item.

30. Any other business

Oral

There was none.

The next meeting would be held on 7 June 2016.