



News Release

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CUPAR'S HISTORIC HEARTLAND AWARDED £550,000 BY HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

THE historic market town of Cupar is celebrating a grant award of £550,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for essential repairs and improvements to its historic streetscape and buildings. This was announced by Head of HLF in Scotland, Colin McLean this week.

The funding, which is distributed through HLF's Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme, was confirmed by HLF following a stage two application submitted by Fife Council last year. It will complement the £1m already announced by Historic Scotland for a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) in Cupar – bringing £1.5m investment to Cupar's historic town centre.

The CARS and THI will be run together, starting in April, and managed by Fife Historic Buildings Trust in partnership with Fife Council. The initiative aims to encourage local authorities to invest in their historic environment, whilst helping to stimulate economic regeneration.

Councillor Lesley Laird, Executive Spokesperson for Business, Enterprise, Economy and Planning said: "This new announcement is fantastic news for Cupar and its regeneration. The five year scheme includes a grant to find a new use for the historic Burgh Chambers, conserving this important landmark in Cupar, as well as funding towards the conversion of part of County Buildings to affordable housing, planned for later this year. All this investment will contribute to improving the appearance, attractiveness and functionality of Cupar's town centre."

Councillor Frances Melville, North East Fife Area Committee Chair, said "The scheme includes funding towards Cupar's historic closes and wynds, as well as an extensive training and apprenticeships scheme that will leave a lasting skills legacy for the care of historic buildings across north east Fife. This will be complemented by a focus on energy efficiency in traditional buildings – raising awareness and building capacity to tackle this important issue."

"This funding announcement reflects the positive and constructive input we have had from local people and groups in Cupar whilst the application was developed. The scheme includes grants for private owners of historic buildings in the Cupar Conservation Area – this grant scheme is expected to be launched in 2015, following the delivery of training to local contractors in 2014. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership to deliver the scheme over the next five years."

Colin McLean, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland, said:

“The regeneration of town centres is an obvious way in which we as an organisation can make an important contribution to improving the economy of an area and the standard of living for the people resident there. Investing lottery money to revitalise historic buildings at the heart of Cupar, will not only make it a more attractive place to live, visit and invest in, it will also provide jobs and training opportunities for local people. We are delighted to make these awards as part of our on-going commitment to preserving Scotland’s heritage in a way in which is pertinent to the needs of today.”

The five year scheme will be launched later this year, with details on all key projects and information on how to apply for grants.

Did you know?

- HLF’s Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) encourages partnerships of local organisations to carry out repairs and other works to a number of historic buildings, structures or spaces. Grants range from £500,000 to £2m. To date, HLF has invested over £214m regenerating towns that have suffered serious social and economic decline.
- Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. To date it has invested over £588million in Scotland’s heritage.