Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Press Release

Good News for Built Heritage in Waterford

Minister for Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys has announced the introduction of 2 funding schemes for Protected Structures - the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017 (BHIS)** and **the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF) 2017**

The BHIS scheme seeks to encourage the leveraging of private capital to invest in a number of small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve structures protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and in certain cases, for the conservation and enhancement of structures within Architectural Conservation Areas. The objective of the scheme is to assist the owner or occupier of heritage structures to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and tradespeople.

This scheme will be administered by Waterford City and County Council who have been allocated €108,000 under the Scheme. Funding awards made under the scheme will be between €2,500 and €10,000, with applicants matching in full the grants being awarded.

Qualifying works include appropriate repair and conservation of historic structures, with works that are sympathetic to the character and special interest of the structure, and are of a standard that matches the historical detailing, materials and techniques. Works that improve the energy efficiency may also be funded. These works should contribute to the regeneration and vitality of the city's and county's built heritage and act as a stimulus for job creation.

The **Structures at Risk Fund** is only for structures that are in immediate danger of significant deterioration.

Details and application forms for the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017** and **Structures at Risk Fund** are now available on www.waterfordcouncil.ie

Completed application forms and photos of the structures must be submitted by email to rryall@waterfordcouncil.ie by 5 pm on 28th of February 2017 . The Department will formally approve projects for funding in March/April. Successful applicants must have the works completed by 29th of September 2017.

For further information or if you have any queries in relation to the scheme please contact: Rosemary Ryall, Executive Conservation Officer, Waterford City and County Council e-mail: rryall@waterfordcouncil.ie