

Funding Brief - Town Centre Regeneration Fund

INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Government recognises Scotland's town centres are a key element of the economic and social fabric of the nation, acting as centres of employment and services for local communities and a focus for civic activity. The Town Centre Regeneration Fund aims to help town centres reach their full potential and to support local economies through these challenging economic times. These new funds will boost the regeneration and growth of town centres, helping them adapt to modern markets, and supply the access, mix of facilities and services, and environment that will meet the needs of local communities and businesses.

The Fund will help to ensure that:

- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
- We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

Scottish Planning Policy defines town centres as:

“city, town and district centres, irrespective of size, that provide a diverse and sustainable mix of activities and land uses which create an identity that signals their function and wider role.”

Key Facts

£60million capital is available from April 2009 to March 2010

**Tranche 1 deadline – 5th June 2009
Tranche 2 deadline – 21st August 2009**

FUNDS AVAILABLE

£60 million capital is available from April 2009 to March 2010. There are no minimum or maximum award levels. All projects should make a strategic contribution to the long term plans for their town centre. Successful applicants must claim all funding by March 2010.

ACTIVITIES

What the fund will support:

The fund aims to support local community and business leaders to make real and lasting improvements to town centres across the whole of Scotland. All capital activity will be considered; examples of fundable activity include:

- Improving pedestrian or vehicle access to a town centre
- Improving parking provision within a town centre
- Attracting increased footfall, both by day and by night
- Diversification of the mix of services and amenities within a town centre, underpinned by an understanding of the requirements of the local community
- Acquisition of gap sites and vacant properties for redevelopment
- Streetscape improvements which enhance and improve how a town centre operates, providing these are of sufficient scale and ambition to represent a capital investment
- Remediation of vacant or derelict sites within the town centre to fit them for retail, residential, business or recreational use
- Purchase of gap sites to allow for use as residential, retail, business or recreation
- Remodelling of existing premises to provide a suitable mix and floorplan of retail, business, residential and recreational uses, or to comply with Disability Discrimination Act legislation.

What the fund won't support:

The fund is capital only and so cannot support any non-investment activity, for example: running costs such as staffing costs, marketing activity, payment for consultants, including for masterplanning activity, and partnership engagement exercises. Retrospective funding is also not allowed.

WHO CAN APPLY

Applications will be accepted from:

- Local authorities
- Community Planning Partnerships
- Town Centre Management organisations
- Business Improvement Districts
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Urban Regeneration Companies
- Businesses
- Registered Social Landlords
- Third sector groups

Organisations applying to the Fund must:

- Be established organisations with an appropriate legal personality
- Be located or operating/trading in a recognised town centre
- Have appropriate management

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applications will be subject to a four stage assessment process comprising:

- Stage 1 – An initial sift to ensure eligibility conditions are satisfied
- Stage 2 – Scoring of all applications against the criteria to produce a ranking of bids
- Stage 3 – Consideration by an Independent Assessment Panel which will consider the spread of bids geographically, organisationally and by size of town and, combining this with ranking information, recommend to Ministers the allocations that ought to be made
- Stage 4 – Consideration and final decision by Ministers

Criteria used for stage 2 scoring:

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
3. We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need
4. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations

5. Project can be delivered, and within the accelerated timescale of the Fund
6. Strategic impact and long term sustainability

DEADLINES

The Town Centre Regeneration Fund will be available from 1 April 2009 until 31 March 2010. Applications will be taken in two tranches to allow rapid action and results, as well as the opportunity for all bodies and all activities to have a fair chance to apply.

Tranche One

The first deadline for applications is **5th June 2009**. Grant offers will be announced around 30th July 2009. Expected allocation of up to about £40m of the Fund in the first tranche.

Tranche Two

The second and final deadline for applications will be **21st August 2009**. Grant offers will be announced around 19th October 2009. Expected allocation of around £20m will be available in this second tranche.

Successful projects will receive offers of grant. Unsuccessful applicants will receive written feedback on the reason their bid was unsuccessful.

CONTACT

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