

NALC WEBINAR ON FUNDING - 15 DECEMBER 2023

Main Speaker; Stuart McLeod, Director, National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The heritage fund's four Investment Principles

Our investment principles guide all our decision making:

Saving Heritage Conserving and valuing heritage, for now and the future.

Protecting the environment Supporting nature recovery and environmental sustainability. Inclusion, access and participation.

Supporting greater inclusion, diversity, access and participation in heritage.

Organisational sustainability Strengthening heritage to be adaptive and financially resilient, contributing to communities and economies.

We will ask projects we fund to take all four investment principles into account in their applications. Further details for applicants will follow in updated guidance, communications and announcements during the transition year of 2023–2024.

Grants: from £10,000. Further details and application forms available in January 2024.

Andy Reeves (Clerk, Noth Swindon. Pop.40,000) emphasised:

- Helpful to have a part time grants officer (on his budget,yes!);
- Business Plan to be as detailed as possible (not least to give the potential funder a sense of confidence in the applicant!)
- Involve Elected Members and officers
- Find sponsors or patrons whose names you can use on published material
- Include risk management policy as detailed as possible.

Given the cost of living crisis, inflation, and current political uncertainty, I think the Heritage Forum will be a best bet for any project funding in the next 2 or 3 years. Starting awards at a minimum of £10k is quite unusual and suggests they will be happy to look at major projects.

If we are thinking this might be a good way forward, the first step would be to update the Development Plans that we made some years ago. These should be **enabling** plans and not prescriptive ones and reviewed annually as part of our monitoring.