

Stirling City Heritage Trust (SCHT)

Background

SCHT is a Scottish charity and company limited by guarantee set up in December 2004 as a means of delivering focused investment in the historic built environment of the City of Stirling. It is one of seven City Heritage Trusts operating in Scotland, SCHT is funded by Historic Environment Scotland and Stirling Council. The Trust is governed by a Board of ten Directors and overseen by the Trust Manager.

Over the past 17 years, the Trust has expanded from chiefly operating a grants scheme to delivering a major maintenance and repair pilot, the Traditional Buildings Health Check, on behalf of Historic Environment Scotland which has the potential to be of national importance. This is in addition to successful completion of a major Priority Area Grant Initiative, together with education and training events. The organisation has grown from having one full time member of staff to now having a team of six.

Previous grant initiatives

The Trust's initial activity from 2005-2012 was the distribution of grant assistance for appropriate repair of traditional properties in Stirling's conservation areas. Its highly successful conservation grant schemes assisted over 200 individual property owners and businesses and safeguarded a number of Stirling's iconic buildings.

During 2012-18 the Trust concentrated its core grant funding on the city centre in its King Street Funding Initiative, a project which aimed to conserve and repair one of Stirling's most historic streets. Located in the heart of the city centre, King Street has suffered from high levels of vacancy, reduced footfall and disrepair with failing building fabric.

There has been a total investment of approximately £1million. The works ranged from small shopfront enhancements to full tenement repairs. In total works were completed to 24 residential flats, 9 shops and 4 businesses.

During 2018-21 we have concentrated on small repair grants, outreach and apprenticeships. Despite the impact of Covid-19 we have continued to deliver many aspects of our service.

Traditional Buildings Health Check (TBHC)

SCHT was commissioned by Historic Scotland in 2012 to undertake a Scoping Study to investigate the possibility of establishing a proactive maintenance scheme in Scotland. As a result of the study Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Scotland committed funding in 2013 for a 5-year pilot to be carried out in Stirling. The pilot was designed and delivered by SCHT. The service opened to membership in October 2014 and has had over 300 members. On the success of the pilot period, SCHT is continuing the service and has placed it at the core of its repair grant and outreach activities.

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TBHC is a not-for-profit membership based service available to all property owners of traditional buildings in the City of Stirling. Members pay a small annual fee for which they gain access to the TBHC services. Principally, a value for money, expert inspection service.

A TBHC team comprises two Traditional Buildings Inspectors and the Membership & Marketing Officer who undertakes the day-to-day management and marketing of the service. The Trust's Projects Officer is responsible for delivery of the supporting grant scheme for TBHC members.

Current Projects

The Trust is coming to the end of its current round of HES funding for 2018-2021. We have taken a holistic approach to heritage management, grant-aid, training and awareness. The Trust has focused on:

1. Traditional Buildings Health Check
2. Traditional Buildings Health Check Expansion (assisting HES in investigating growth of the scheme)
3. Traditional Building Repair Grant (grants for repair work to TBHC member properties)
4. Priority Area Grant Initiatives (investigate in partnership with Stirling Council)
5. Educational Outreach (skills training for local contractors and secondary school pupils)

We have a 1 year funding offer from Historic Environment Scotland taking us to end March 2022. During this financial year, we will be pursuing funding to help us continue our work beyond March 2022 and continuing with delivery of TBHC, grants and outreach.

Further information at www.stirlingcityheritagetrust.org

Further information at www.traditionalbuildingshealthcheck.org

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