

This scheme is now closed but will reopen early 2027. However, you are advised to prepare in advance of this, to allow yourself sufficient time, such as gathering relevant quotes and method statements.

See Appendices One & Two for Guidance

Appendix One

Scheme Overview

Aim of the Scheme

The scheme aims to encourage good custodianship of historic buildings in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) and support traditional skills through best conservation practice when carrying out the repair of historic material.

Who can Apply

When the scheme reopens, it is for owners and occupiers of buildings (domestic and non-domestic) located within any of the ACAs located in Cork City. The funds available to this scheme (with a max grant of €20,000 available per project) aim to assist historic building owners and occupiers in carrying out repair and conservation works. The ACA boundaries are illustrated on the following map:

<https://corkcityco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Styleer/index.html?appid=a5e7b4ae448c4fdb88ce42782c95b84>

If the applicant is in doubt as to the eligibility of a particular structure under this scheme, they are encouraged to contact their Local Authority with their query.

Qualifying Works

The scheme targets conservation repair of the external envelope of historic buildings, which will have an immediate and obvious benefit to the ACA; particularly meaning works that would be visible from the street. Repair of historic fabric will be prioritised, and these works can include (but are not limited to):

- Repairs to historic roof, roof elements and rainwater goods;
- Repairs to historic external walls and renders;
- Repair of historic windows and surrounds;
- Repair of historic doors and doorways;
- Repair of historic shopfronts /historic signage
- Repairs to historic ironwork, limestone steps, and other boundary treatments;

Reinstatement of lost character may be considered where this particularly benefits the ACA, such as the replacement of uPVC windows with bespoke, historically accurate/ appropriate, timber sliding sash windows.

Reinstated features cannot be factory-made/ off-the-shelf products and need to be traditionally made/ constructed by tradepeople that have experience of conservation and historic buildings. This is to ensure that the grant is supporting traditional skills and that best conservation practice is employed. Historic detailing needs to be copied to ensure that any reinstatement is historically accurate. Final designs to be agreed with the Conservation Officer prior to any production.



All proposed works should be carried out in accordance with best conservation practice standards as outlined in the Department's *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2011) <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0937a-architectural-heritage-protection-guidelines-for-planning-authorities> and Advice Series publications <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/resources/>

If a grant is awarded for qualifying works, this is provisional approval only and the precise nature of the works are to be agreed following the initial site inspection by the Conservation Officer.

In exceptional circumstances consideration may be given to supporting internal repair works where they relate to significant historic features (e.g. stairwells, joinery and decorative plasterwork).

Ineligible or Non-Qualifying Works

Applications would not be considered eligible or qualifying for the following reasons:

- the structure is not located within an ACA;
- the works do not relate to conservation/repair/restoration of character
- the works are for general maintenance, such as painting;
- works have commenced prior to notification of a grant (see further detail below)
- the applicant is not the occupier or legal owner at the time of the grant submission.

Works cannot be funded retrospectively. Works that have commenced before notification of funding approval under this scheme or where works have commenced prior to a site inspection by the Local Authority will **not be funded**. ('Works' includes production off site)

How to Apply

The following is a short checklist (Please refer to Appendix Two for details on the application process):

- Complete the Application Form, which should include a detailed list of the proposed works;
- Provide signed consent of the Owner (if the Applicant is the occupier but not the Owner);
- Provide a Method Statement for the proposed works (detailed list of works to be included) describing the current condition of the areas proposed for repair and including details of how the proposed conservation works will be carried out;
- Provide dated photographs showing the building and the condition of the specific areas to which works are proposed;
- Provide a breakdown of costs, following a request for three quotations;
- Provide copies of all quotations received;
- Submit your application as per the instructions in Appendix Two.

Assessment

Eligible applications will be assessed for selection under the following criteria:

- The completeness of the application;
- The efficacy of the proposed works, demonstrating value for money and how the proposed works will prevent further deterioration to the building;
- The importance of the works to safeguard historic fabric and the methodology of works proposed, ensuring that best conservation practice is employed;
- The significance of the historic building and/ or fabric it is proposed to repair;
- The benefits to the wider ACA; particularly meaning works that would be visible from the street.



Funding of Projects

Grants of up to €20,000 are available under this scheme. Works can be funded up to a maximum rate of 50% of the project cost. Grants exceeding 50% of the total project cost may be offered in exceptional circumstances and:

- Where the public benefit outweighs the private benefit;
- In relation to the repair of specific Unique Cork building types and building features (e.g.: gabled houses, bow-fronted houses, bay-fronted houses, slate-hung elevations, and historic timber sashes).

See Appendix Two below



Appendix Two

Notes on applications

- 1 Funding available to Cork City Council for this Architectural Conservation Areas Grants Scheme is limited, competitive and there is no automatic right to a grant.

Applications will be prioritised on the quality of the application and adherence to the qualifying works as outlined in Appendix One of this document. The decision of Cork City Council is final.
- 2 The application form must be fully and clearly completed, and must be accompanied by the appropriate documents (as described in Appendix I). Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- 3 **Submission of applications**
Apply online (a link will be provided when the scheme is relaunched)
If submitting a hard copy, completed application forms should be submitted for the attention of: Conservation Officer, Strategic Planning & Heritage, Planning and Integrated Development Directorate, Cork City Council, City Hall, Cork.
- 4 **Funding**
Details of how the cost of the works, other than the amount of the grant sought, is proposed to be funded must be stated. The applicant must indicate the amount of the applicant's personal or business resources being used and any:
 - Grants, subsidies or assistance from statutory bodies, or
 - Sponsorship or assistance from a non-statutory source, received or being sought.
Where any part of the works is being carried out by the applicant directly, or where they are being undertaken by voluntary means, this must also be stated.
- 5 **Documents**
Refer to Appendix One ('How to Apply') for the documents required with the submission.
- 6 **City Council Conservation leaflet**
Architectural Conservation Areas: advice and guidance to owners and occupiers, a leaflet published by Cork City Council in 2023, provides general guidance on good practice in Architectural Conservation Areas. This is available on [Conservation Grants - Cork City Council](#). Further guidance on the approach to repair can be found in the Advice Series produced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (see <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/resources>)



7 Planning and Consents etc.

Any grant of funding is not to be taken as a waiver of the responsibility of the applicant and/or developer to comply with the provisions of any Act, Order, Regulation or any other statutory provision (e.g. National Monuments Acts, Building Regulations, Planning and Development Acts, and Regulations, Waste Management Acts, etc). Please note that a grant of funding does not imply that the funded works including any submitted drawings are in compliance with the Building Regulations. Compliance with the Building Regulations is a matter for the applicant and their technical advisors.

8 Tax Clearance Procedures

All grants are subject to Department of Finance Tax Clearance Procedures. The current requirements are set out in *Circulars 43/2006* and *Circular 44/2006*, as updated. This will mean that (subject to new requirements):

- Any proposed contractors will need to show that they are within the tax system (e.g. by means of a Tax Clearance Certificates or sub-contractors determination); and
- Those in receipt of public grants exceeding €10,000 in any tax year will also need to show that they are tax compliant by means of a Tax Clearance Certificate.

9 The ACA grant process

Public notice	Early 2027
Applications deadline	Early 2027
Grant assessment	Early 2027
Notification of provisional grant award	TBC 2027
Grant offer accepted	TBC 2027
Conservation Officer Site Visit by	TBC 2027
Works completed by (at the latest)	TBC 2027
Payment claim submitted by	TBC 2027

