

**REPORT FROM:** Housing, Health and Economic Development

**TO:** Nelson Area Committee

**DATE:** July 2016

**Report Author:** Paul Collins  
**Tel. No:** 01282 661677  
**E-mail:** [Paul.collins@pendle.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.collins@pendle.gov.uk)

## **Nelson Premises Improvement Grants: 2015/16 Summary**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the Committee on the progress made on the Nelson premises improvement grants Scheme in 2015/16 financial year.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme
- (2) That Members agree to extend the town centre boundary of eligible businesses to include Scotland Road from the junction with Clayton Street.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the premises improvement grants scheme in the 2015/16 financial year.
- (2) The extension of the boundary of eligible businesses will allow a key entrance gateway into Nelson to be included.

### **ISSUE**

#### **Premises improvement grants summary**

A total budget of £36,146 was available for the financial year 2015-16, this was made up from a new allocation of £15,000 and carry over from previous financial years of £21,146.

In total £15,917.5 has been spent on three businesses in 2015/16. A further £19,778 has been allocated to another six businesses, but the projects are yet to be completed.

### Completed Premises Improvement Grants 2015-16

Games @ 9 – 9 Scotland Road, £917.50. The applicant received funding towards the installation of a new sign which was required due to a rebranding of the business.

Hidden Delights – back 9 Scotland Road, £3,000, this previously vacant building was refurbished, with the shop front and doors replaced and existing security shutters repaired and upgraded.

Scotland Road Building – 14-18 Scotland Road. The property owners received a grant of £12,000 to install new shop fronts to this long standing vacant building. The property owners made a substantial investment to complexly renovate this landmark building in Nelson. The property is now open as Suraj Bazaar after lying vacant and unused for a number of years.

### Allocated Premises Improvement Grants 2015/16

Baby Plus Uniform, 15 Scotland Road, £1,334. The businesses has applied for funding to replace the existing signage, and repair/replace the existing security shutters.

Former Bull Pub, Scotland Road, £12,000. The owner of this vacant public house is planning on converting the building into 4 new retail units. The grant funding is contributing towards the installation of new shop fronts.

Kool Courture, 20 Scotland Road, £279. This new business applied for grant funding to install signage to the property. Although the work is complete the applicant is yet to submit the relevant invoices to receive the grant.

Nawab Sweet Centre, 47 Scotland Road, £3,000. The grant will be used to install new signage to the exterior of the building which will replace the temporary signs that are currently in place.

Purple Real Estates and Lettings, 65 Scotland Road £1,705. The business will use the grant funding to install a new illuminated sign and additional window vinyls to the property. Although the work is complete the applicant is yet to submit the relevant invoices to receive the grant.

Sunbed Planet, 45 Scotland Road, £1,460. The grant will be used to install new signage to the exterior of the building which will replace the temporary signs that are currently in place.

### Applications Received in the 2016/17 financial year

A further two businesses have currently submitted applications for grant assistance, which will be approved if a budget is agreed.

Driver Education centre, 64 Leeds Road, £413. This previously vacant property has been occupied by a new business. The grant will be used to install new signage to the premises.

Pendleside Hospice , 59 Scotland Road, £820. The grant funding will be used to update the signage and repaint the existing shopfront.

### Outcomes of premises improvement grants 2015/16

Of the premises improvement grants that have currently been completed, two previously vacant properties have been improved and occupied. The premises supported included a substantial property on Scotland/Leeds Road which has been refurbished and reoccupied after lying vacant for a number of years.

A further three vacant buildings will have been brought back into use once the remaining allocated works are completed.

These grants have had a major contribution to the current vibrancy in Nelson, allowing businesses to invest in the appearance of their premises and helping new businesses establish themselves on the high street.

As well as the applications that have been received, a further fourteen businesses have shown an interest and requested further information about the possibility of receiving a premises improvement grant for their business property in the town centre.

### Businesses eligible for Premises Improvement Grant support.

As it currently stands all business which lie within the official town centre boundary (Appendix 1) are eligible to apply for a Premises Improvement Grant. In order to allow businesses in key gateways to the town centre it is suggest that the boundary be extended to include the area of Scotland Road from the junction with Clayton Street. This will allow businesses in this key gateway area access to funding to improve their business premises, and the overall appearance of the area which is the main road accessing the town from the M65. All other gateway entrances are covered under the existing town centre boundary, including Leeds and Manchester Road.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** To extended the existing town centre premises improvement boundary to include additional businesses on Scotland Road

**Financial:** As outlined in the report.

**Legal:** None arising directly from this report

**Risk Management:**.. None arising directly from this report

**Health and Safety:** None arising directly from this report

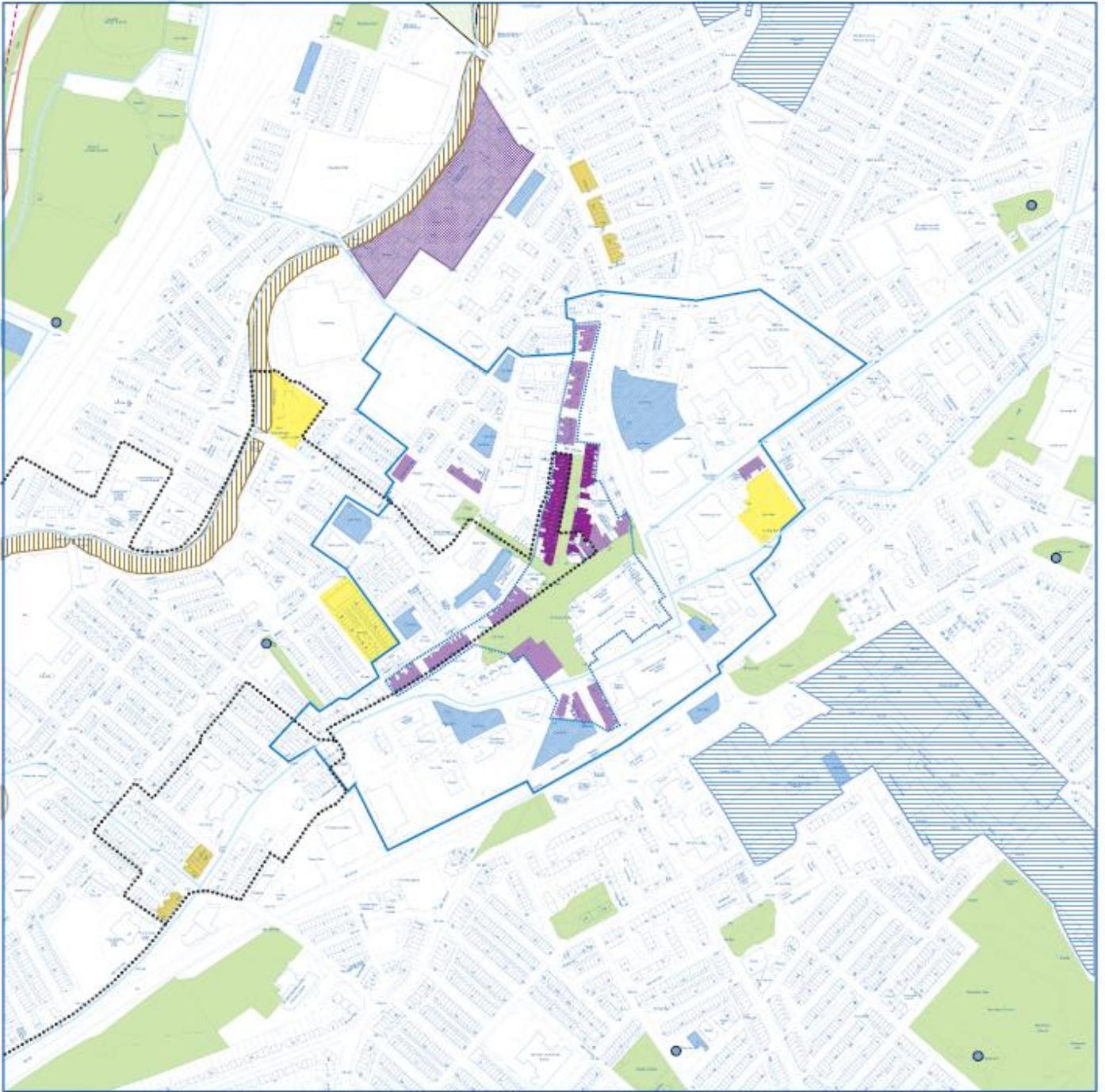
**Sustainability:** successful delivery of this scheme will enhance the image and appearance of Nelson town centre and in turn encourage the use of local town centres

**Community Safety:** None arising directly from this report

**Equality and Diversity:** grants are accessible to all businesses within the town centre boundary.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Nelson Town Centre Boundary.



**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**