

REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MANAGER

TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DATE: 12th MAY, 2016

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FOR INFORMATION

COLNE PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: 2015/16 SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

ISSUE

Premises improvement grants summary

A total budget of £32,000 was allocated from 106 funding covering two financial years 2014-16, the remaining premises improvement grant funding allocation for the 2015-16 financial year was £27,053. This budget included £6,000 for gateway premises improvement grants, which was slipped through from previous financial years.

In total £18,882 has been spent on nine businesses in 2015/16. A further £8,140 has been allocated to a another four businesses, but the projects are yet to be completed.

All applications are presented to the Colne Grants Panel (Councillor Lord and Councillor White) who make a decision as to whether a premises improvement grant should be allocated

Completed Premises Improvement Grants 2015-16

Indulge, 6 Dockray Street, the property owner received a maximum grant of £3,000, the works included replacing the existing shopfront, new signage and repairing the areas surrounding the new shop front.

Mr Chips, 12-14 Market Place, this long standing business received a grant of £2969.39. Works carried out included replacing the existing wooden glad shop front and windows in the same material, painting the new wooden façade and replacing the existing signage.

No62, 62 Albert Road, this new businesses received a grant of £3,000. The property was entirely renovated including a new kitchen. The grant covered repairing and repainting the original shop front, renovation of the existing canopy and internal works to make the existing space fit for purpose. As well as this new business taking on a previously vacant property they will also employ 12 members of staff in the next 18months.

Northern Life , Sun Street. The businesses received a grant of £220. The funding was used to replace the external signage to the property. Making the business more visible to passing footfall.

Pendle Care and Support 63 Albert Road. This business relocated into Colne, moving into a large prominent building in the town centre. The business received £2787 grant which was used to repair and repoint the external stone work and sandblast the entire building. The business plans to employ an additional 16 members of staff due to the relocation and expansion of the business.

Scarlet Ribbons, 5a Spring Lane. The businesses relocated from Dockray Street in Colne. A grant of £917.50 was used to install new signage to the building, including window graphics, sign board and vertical banner. Internal building works were also undertaken to make the maximise the available floor space.

Shockwave Barbers, 18 Dockray Street. The property landlord renovated this town centre property which had stood vacant for a number of years. After renovation was complete an existing Colne business moved into the property. A grant of £1915 was received, the works included replacement window and door, as well as sandblasting and repointing the external walls.

Gateway – Premises Improvement Grants

Fuchsia Hair and Beauty, 13 Keighley Road. The business relocated into this edge of town property, which was previously vacant. A grant of £1072.92 was to replace the existing external windows and doors.

Swankies, Stanley Street, received a maximum grant of £3,000. This long established Colne business received grant funding to renovate the entire exterior of the property, including repairing and repainting the walls, replacing the existing shop front and installing rebranded signage.

Allocated Premises Improvement Grants 2015/16

Alongside the nine completed grants, a further four business have received an offer letter and funding has been allocated but the works are yet to be completed.

4 Skipton Road, the owner of this vacant edge of town centre property has applied for grant assistance to make improvements to the exterior of the building, including repainting and repairing the existing shop front. A grant of £1500 has been allocated, the new owner hopes that these improvements will help the property be brought back into use.

Carpet Centre, Primett Hill. The business is relocating and expanding in Colne and have been allocated a grant of £3,000 to replace the shop front windows to the property. Planning approval was required before works began, and the issue is still on going.

2 Church Street. The property owners have been allocated £3,000 to replace the existing wooden windows of the property. The building was previously vacant, but has been brought back into use by an existing Colne business which has expanded into a larger property.

Natural Therapy Centre, The Arcade. The business has been allocated a grant of £90 to install window graphics to the upper windows of the arcade, which will increase the visual presence of the business. Works are yet to be completed.

Outcomes of premises improvement grants 2015/16

Of the premises improvement grants that have currently been completed, five previously vacant properties have been improved, and two new businesses have moved into the town centre, with a further three businesses expanding or relocating within Colne.

The nine completed grants totalling £18,882, has been more than matched by private sector investment of £53,602.90. As well as the investment in property improvements the completed grants have helped to create an additional forty jobs in Colne.

These grants have had a major contribution to the current vibrancy in Colne, 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 twenty-one 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.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report

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 Colne 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 and gateway sites.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS