

REPORT FROM: Housing, Health and Economic Development

TO: Brierfield and Reedley Committee

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Report Author: Paul Collins
Tel. No: 01282 661677
E-mail: Paul.collins@pendle.gov.uk

Brierfield Premises Improvement Grants: 2016/17 Summary

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the progress made on the Brierfield Premises Improvement Grants Scheme in 2016/17 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the Premises Improvement Grants Scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agree to an additional funding allocation of £6,000 (Separate capital programme bid).
- (3) It is requested that the Brierfield and Reedley Committee nominates two Members to a Premises Improvement Grant Panel

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the Premises Improvement Grants Scheme in the 2016/17 financial year.
- (2) To allow the Premises Improvement Grant Programme to continue.
- (3) To allow Member to have a greater involvement in the allocation of Premises Improvement Grants.

ISSUE

Premises Improvement Grant Scheme: Background

1. All businesses within the Brierfield town centre boundary are eligible for a Premises Improvement Grant. The grant programme aims to improve the overall appearance of the

town centre by assisting businesses to improve premises and encourage the use of vacant properties. The grants scheme is a tool used to encourage private investment in town centre buildings; the outcome of this investment is an aesthetic improvement to the town centre and in turn increases retail and public confidence in the area. The grants can encourage the use of vacant buildings as they can reduce the overall cost of changing the exterior of the building to suit the needs of the incoming business

2. All business premises within the defined town centre boundary are eligible for a 50% grant up to a maximum of £3000, for improvements to their premises. Premises improvement grants are promoted, targeted and administered by Economic Development staff. The Economic Development Team supports the applicant's throughout the application process.

Premises Improvement Grants summary

3. A total budget of £8,275 was available for Premises Improvement Grants in the 2016/17 financial year, the total budget included £3,000 contribution from 2016/17 financial year and slippage totalling £5,275.
4. In total £599.89 has currently been spent on one businesses, a further £6,000 has been allocated to two businesses, but the projects are yet to be completed. This leaves an unallocated sum of £1,675.

Completed Premises Improvement Grants 2016-17

5. Pendleside Hospice, 4 Halifax Road, the business received a grant of £599.89 which assisted in replacing the existing signage on the building. The charity had recently rebranded and new signage was installed replacing the outdated signs.

Allocated Premises Improvement Grants 2016/17

6. Alongside the one completed grant, a further two businesses have received an offer letter and funding has been allocated but the works are yet to be completed.
7. Convenience Store, 94 Colne Road. This new business has been allocated a maximum grant of £3,000. The grant will be used to install a new shopfront. The two small existing premises will be converted into one larger unit.
8. Eco World Energy Ltd, 76 – 78 Colne Road. This existing business has been allocated a maximum grant of £3,000. The funding will be used to replace the existing wooden shop front, and also replace the existing signage.

Outcomes of Premises Improvement Grants 2016/17

9. Once all the Premises Improvement Grants have been completed, two previously vacant properties will have been improved, and one new business will have moved into the town centre.
10. The three grants totalling £6599.89 will be more than matched by private sector investment of £7968.89. As well as the investment in property improvements the grants have helped to create an additional five jobs in Brierfield.

Premises Improvement Grants 2017-18

11. A £6,000 capital programme bid has been submitted to the Committee to continue the Premises Improvement Grant Programme in Brierfield. The additional allocation added to underspend from 2016-17 will allow a total budget of £7,675 for the 2017-18 financial year. To date eleven 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.
12. It is requested that the Brierfield and Reedley Committee nominates two Members to be on a Premises Improvement Grants Panel. The Premises Improvement Grants Panel will provide comment and make approval decisions prior to a Premises Improvement Grant being formally offered to a business. Panel decisions are undertaken via email, the Economic Development team will send details of the application, prior to Members making an approval decision.

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 Brierfield 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.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS