

REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES MANAGER

TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DATE: 11th MAY, 2017

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COLNE PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: 2016/17 SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the progress made on the Colne premises improvement grants Scheme in 2016/17 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agree to an additional funding allocation of £15,000 (Separate capital programme bid).
- (3) It is requested that the Colne 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 Colne 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 £23,982.14 was available for Premises Improvement Grants in the 2016/17 financial year, the total budget included £10,434 contribution from 2016/17 financial year and slippage from previous years totalling £13,548.14.
4. At the Colne Committee on 30/03/17 Members decided to deallocate £10,000 from the Premises Improvement Grant budget, leaving a total amount of £13,982.14. In total £6,385.59 has currently been spent on five business premises. A further £9,388 has been allocated to four businesses, but the projects are yet to be completed. Once all the allocated grants are completed the budget will have a shortfall of £1,791.45. Timescales for the completion of these outstanding grants are currently unknown, once completed the grants could be funded from any potential 2017/18 allocation.

Completed Premises Improvement Grants 2016-17

5. Building owner, The Bridgewater, Primet Bridge. A grant of £2925 was used to replace the windows to the property which is a key gateway building. Following the completion of the work, the building is now occupied by a bridal retailer (Ava Rose Hamilton) who relocated from Barrowford.
6. Crown News, 121 Albert Road. The businesses owner has received a grant of £2388.50 which was used to replace the rotten wooden shopfront, with a new double glazed wooden shopfront. The work is part of a larger renovation project to the building, once completed the business will begin to trade again.
7. Natural Therapy Centre, 3 Primet Hill. The business has received two small grants £150 and £103.20. The first grant was used to add signage to their upper floor location (The Arcade), but subsequently the business decided to expand and relocate to a larger property in Colne. The second grant of £150 was used to install signage to the new property.
8. Pendleside Hospice, 12-16 Dockray Street. The business received a grant of £818.89 to replace the signage and repaint the existing shop front. The signage was replaced to fit the new branding for the charity.

Allocated Premises Improvement Grants 2016/17

9. Landlord, (Live Like The Boy)2 Church Street. The property owner has applied for grant funding to replace the existing wooden windows to the side of the property. A maximum grant of £3,000 is allocated, but the work is yet to take place.
10. Landlord, 4 Skipton Road. The applicant has been allocated funding of £1500 to repair and repaint the existing wooden shopfront. Although this work was completed some time ago the applicant is yet to request the allocated grant funding. The property has recently become occupied.

11. Turners, 82 Albert Road. Turners are relocating into Colne from neighbouring Barrowford and will occupy a prominent building that has remained vacant for a number of years. As part of an extensive renovation project the business has been allocated a grant of £1888 which will fund new external signage to the building and create a bespoke outdoor seating area.
12. XLCR, 35-43 Albert Road. This long standing Colne business was approved a maximum grant of £3,000, which will contribute to the repair and repainting of the existing external railing/fencing, as well as cleaning of the external stonework of the property.

Outcomes of premises improvement grants 2016/17

13. Once all the Premises Improvement Grants have been completed, five previously vacant properties will have been brought back into commercial use, and three new businesses will have moved into the town centre.
14. As well as the investment in property improvements the grants have helped to create an additional eleven jobs in Colne, and brought back into use or improved 1251sqm of commercial floor space.

Premises Improvement Grants 2017-18

15. A £15,000 capital programme bid has been submitted to the Committee to continue the Premises Improvement grant programme in Colne. The new allocation will need to take account of the shortfall of £1,791.45 following the deallocation of £10,000 (30/03/17) which would leave a working budget of £13,208.55 for the 2017/18 financial year.
16. It is requested that the Colne Committee nominates two Members to be on a Premises Improvement Grant Panel. The Premises Improvement Grants Panel will provide comment and make approval decisions prior to a Premises Improvement Grant been 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.
17. The Colne Committee had previously nominated Councillor D. Lord and Councillor P. White to sit on a Premises Improvement Grant Panels for the 2016/17 financial year.

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.