

REPORT FROM: Housing, Health and Economic Development Manager

TO: West Craven Committee

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West Craven Premises Improvement Grants: Summary 2017/18

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Members of West Craven Committee on the Premises Improvement Grant scheme in the 2017/18 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agrees to a funding allocation of £9,000. Funded from carrying over the existing budget.
 - £6,000 for Barnoldswick.
 - £3,000 for Earby.
- (3) It is requested that West Craven Committee nominates at least two members to a Premises Improvement Grant Panel. Previously the Committee has nominated two members from Barnoldswick and two members from Earby.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the Premises Improvement Grant scheme in the 2017/18 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 business premises within the defined town centre boundary are eligible for a 50% grant up to a maximum of £1,500, 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

2. The Premises Improvement Grant scheme allows businesses to make physical and aesthetic improvements to their businesses, creating a more attractive town centre street scene, and adding vibrancy to the town centre.
3. As well as encouraging additional investment into the area the grants scheme assists new businesses either setting up or moving into the area and helps to bring previously vacant units back into use, and in turn creating a more vibrant town centre.
4. Members also recently approved the use of Premises Improvement Grants for improving access to buildings for disabled people.

Barnoldswick - Premises Improvement Grants 2017/18

5. The total budget allocation in Barnoldswick for the 2017/18 financial year was £9,879. This was made up of a starting balance of £6879, with an allocation of £3,000 for 2017/18. Earby had no allocation for 2017/18 but had an existing balance of £3,185.
6. One business had been allocated a Premises Improvement Grant in 2017-18. That business was Regency Hair on Gisburn Road. It received a grant of £750 toward window replacement and improvement to double-glazed units.
7. This leaves an unspent budget of £9,129 for Barnoldswick.

Earby – Premises Improvement Grants 2017/18

8. The total budget allocation in Earby for the 2017/18 financial was £3,185.
9. One business had been allocated a Premises Improvement Grant in 2017-18. That business was Ryan Waine Plumbing and Heating on Colne Road. It received a grant of £1,500.
10. This leaves an unspent budget of £1,685 for Earby.

Premises Improvement Grant programme 2018/19

11. It is requested that the Committee agrees to a funding allocation of £9000 - £6,000 for Barnoldswick and £3,000 for Earby to allow the continuation of the Premises Improvement Grant programme. The funding to be supplied from a carryover of funds from the 2017-18 finance year. To try and increase take up, officers from the Economic Development Unit or appropriate local delivery agent will leaflet the town centres. The cost for leaflets and any local delivery company will be met by the grant funds. An initial press release will also be sent out.
12. West Craven Committee is requested to nominate four Members (two Barnoldswick and two Earby) to sit on the Premises Improvement Grant Panel. The Premises Improvement Grant Panel provide comment and make approval decisions prior to a Premises Improvement Grant been formally offered to a business. It is requested that the Committee nominate two Members from Barnoldswick and Earby to be on the panel for the 2017/18 financial year.
13. West Craven Committee has previously nominated members to sit on a Premises Improvement Grant Panel for both Barnoldswick and Earby:
 - Barnoldswick – Councillor D.Whipp and Councillor M.Adams

- Earby - Councillor Rosemary Carroll and Councillor M. Goulthorp

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report

Financial: As outlined above 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 Barnoldswick and Earby town centre and in turn encourage the use of local town centres.

Community Safety: None directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: Grants are accessible to all businesses within the town centres.