

REPORT FROM: Housing, Health and Economic Development

TO: Nelson Committee

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Premises Improvement Grants: 2017/18 Summary

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the progress made on the Nelson premises improvement grants Scheme in 2017/18 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agree to a funding allocation of £ 20,000 for the 2018-19 financial year (Separate capital programme bid).
- (3) It is requested that the Nelson Committee nominates 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 2017/18 financial year.
- (2) To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to continue.
- (3) To allow Members to have a greater involvement in the allocation of Premises Improvement grants.

ISSUE

Premises Improvement grant scheme: Background

1. All businesses within the Nelson 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 administered by Economic Development staff. The Economic Development Team supports the applicant throughout the application process.

Premises improvement grants summary

3. A total budget of £30,128 was available for Premises Improvement Grants in the 2017/18 financial year. The total budget included £15,000 contribution from 2017/18 financial year and slippage from the previous year of £15,128.
4. In total £15,764.57 has currently been spent on the businesses in the table below. A further £9,000 has been allocated to 3 businesses, but the projects are yet to be completed. If all the grants are completed the budget will have a surplus of £490.
5. Completed Premises Improvement Grants 2017-18

Business	Address	Total Grant Value	Grant Used For	Outputs new jobs	Outputs jobs safeguarded
Nawab Sweet Centre	47 Scotland Road	£3000	Illuminated signage to the properties double shop front.	0	0
Sunbed Planet	45 Scotland Road	£1032	illuminated signage	0	0
The Irish League Club	3-7 Walton Street	£3,000.00	Windows and stone cleaning	3	
Bee's Boutique	38 Manchester Road	£544.87	Signage	0	2
Driving Education Centre	64 Leeds Road	£3,000.00	Shutters/shopfront	0	2
Bradley Laundrette	104 Scotland Road	£1,750.00	Stone cleaning	0	1
Hollywood Hair	89A Scotland Road	£437.70	Signage	0	2

Al-nimat	3 Albert Street	£3,000.00	Shutters/shopfront	1	0
Total		£15,764.57		4	7

6. Non-completed but Allocated Premises Improvement Grants 2017-18

Business	Address	Total Grant Value	Grant Used For	Outputs new jobs	Outputs jobs safeguarded
Tax Office Limited	108 Scotland Road	3,000.00	Windows/door	4	3
Jean Junction	35 Scotland Road	3,000.00	Pointing/Stone clean/windows	1	2
24hr management LTD	16-18 Manchester Road	3,000.00	Tiling	4	2
Total		9,000.00		9	7

Outcomes of premises improvement grants 2017/18

7. Completed projects - As well as the investment in property improvements the grants have helped to safeguard 7 jobs in Nelson and generate 4 new jobs. This generated £56,614 as total expenditure with a public to private sector leverage ratio of nearly 1 to 5 and two previously vacant properties were now being used.
8. Non-completed but allocated projects - the grants have helped to safeguard 7 jobs in Nelson and generate 9 new jobs. This generated £24,730.00 as total project costs with a public to private sector leverage ratio of 1 to 2.6 and one previously vacant property was now being used.

Premises Improvement Grants 2018-19

9. There continues to be strong interest from businesses in Nelson for these grants. Whilst awaiting a decision on future funding for these grants there have been enquiries from 8 businesses. Two have applications in the system, and 6 are awaiting to put in an application.
10. It is recommended that £34,363.43 be allocated to Premises Improvement Grant for Nelson in 2018-19 financial year. This to be made up of a bid to the capital programme for 2018-19 of £20,000 and a slippage of £14,363.43 from the 2017-18 budget which would leave a working budget of £20,490 for the 2018/19 financial year. An update report will be submitted to the Committee outlining current applications and projected spend partway through the financial year.
11. It is requested that the Nelson Committee nominates members to be on a Premises Improvement Grant Panel. Members for the financial year 2017-18 were Cllr Asjad Mahmood and Cllr Mohammed Sakib. 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.

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.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS