

REPORT FROM: Planning, Economic Development & Regulatory Services

TO: West Craven Committee

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West Craven Premises Improvement Grants: Summary 2018/19

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Members of the West Craven Committee on the Premises Improvements Grants scheme in the 2018/19 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 £3000 for Earby in the 2019/20 finance year. As well as a carryover of £3000 from the current finance year
- (3) It is requested that the West Craven Committee nominates at least two members to a Premises Improvement Grant Panel for Earby.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the PIG scheme in the 2017/18 financial year.
- (2) To allow the PIG programme to continue for Earby, but to remain subject to later approval for funds for Barnoldswick, dependent on funding being available
- (3) To allow Member to have a greater involvement in the allocation of PIGs.

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. PIGs are promoted,

targeted and administered by Economic Development staff. The Economic Development Team supports the applicant's throughout the application process

2. The PIG 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 that 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 PIGs for improving access to buildings for disabled people.

Premises Improvement Grants 2018/19

5. The budget allocation in Barnoldswick for the 2018/19 financial year was £9,129. Despite leafletting the businesses, and some enquiries being generated, no businesses have unfortunately come forward for the grants. Given the priority for improving the public square in Barnoldswick it is suggested that a request for further funding is delayed until this has been resolved.
6. Earby received an allocation for 2018/19 of £3,000. But despite the budget not having been spent, the town was recently leafleted by a member of the Economic Development Team, and serious interest was shown by two traders. If grants came forward from these businesses and these were approved then there would potentially be no grant aid available for Earby for the whole remainder of the financial year. This is why it is requested that the current budget is carried over in addition to the fresh request for funding for £3000 from the 2019/20 budget.
7. The West Craven committee is requested to nominate two Members to sit on the PIG Panel for Earby grants. The PIG Panel provide comment and make approval decisions prior to a PIG being formally offered to a business.

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.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS