

**REPORT FROM:** Planning, Economic Development & Regulatory Services Manager

**TO:** Colne and District Committee

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## **Colne Premises Improvement Grants: 2018/19 Summary**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the Committee on the progress made on the Colne Premises Improvement Grants Scheme in 2018/19 financial year.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the Premises Improvement Grants Scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agrees to a funding allocation of £12,000 (Separate capital programme bid) and the carryover of £3,000 from current 2018/19. Total funding which will be available for the grants will be £15,000.
- (3) It is requested that the Colne and District Committee nominates two Members to a Premises Improvement Grants Panel.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the Premises Improvement Grants Scheme in the 2018/19 financial year.
- (2) To allow the Premises Improvement Grants programme to continue.
- (3) To allow Members to have a greater involvement in the allocation of Premises Improvement Grants.

### **ISSUE**

#### Premises Improvement Grants 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 £3,000, 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 £10,936 was available for Premises Improvement Grants in 2018/19. This was made up of an allocation of £5,000 and a slippage of £5,936. There were approvals for four grants, totalling £7,769. This leaves an amount remaining to spend of £3,167.

#### Completed Premises Improvement Grants 2017-18

1. Zara Moon Architects, 13 New Market Street. Zara Moon Architects received a grant of £2,124 which much improved the frontage of the property, including new paint work, new window frames, and new signage and tiling. The number of jobs created by this business in the first year is 2.5 FTEs and it is hoped for 10 FTEs over the first three years.
2. Ashville Guesthouse, 75 Albert Road. This business is responsible for helping vulnerable adults and is a prominent position on the main street. A grant of £3,000 was received toward the installation of new wooden window frames in keeping with the Conservation Area. The total cost of the project was £12,550 and two jobs were safeguarded.

#### Allocated Premises Improvement Grants 2018/19

1. Greenfield Arts Centre, Unit 5a, Riverside Mill, Greenfield Road. The place is a music and performance art venue which is run by a Community Interest Company. The panel approved a grant of £1,395 towards a stair lift in the premises which will increase accessibility. Though the stair lift is in place we are awaiting the completed invoice from them. 5 jobs are safeguarded at this project.
2. Colne Commercial Centre, Exchange Street. This is an office building near the centre of Colne. The panel approved a grant of £1,250 to assist in a stone clean of the property to enhance the look of the building. We are currently awaiting a third quotation for the work.

#### Premises Improvement Grants 2019-20

1. It is recommended that £15,000 be allocated to Premises Improvement Grants for Colne in 2019-20 financial year. This to be made up of a bid to the capital programme for 2018-19 of £12,000 and a carryover of £3,000 from 2018-19. This is based on the continued demand for these grants from local businesses, including one pending grant application which will be received from Kip McGrath and another enquiry for the former Kippax biscuit factory.
2. It is requested that the Colne and District 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.

3. The Colne and District Committee had previously nominated Councillor M. Foxley and Councillor V. Fletcher to sit on a Premises Improvement Grants Panel for the 2018/19 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.

## **APPENDICES**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**