

REPORT FROM: Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services
Manager

TO: Brierfield and Reedley Committee

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Brierfield Premises Improvement Grants

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- (1) To report to the committee on a grant application under the Brierfield Premises Improvement Scheme.
- (2) To request the Committee establish a Premises Improvement Grant Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Members note the Premises Improvement Grant Criteria to be used for making approval decisions on grant applications.
- (2) That the Committee consider approval for a Premises Improvement Grant grant application from Brierfield Action In The Community, 1-3 Colne Road, Brierfield for £650, subject to planning permission (if required).
- (3) That the Committee agree to establish a Premises Improvement Grant Panel for Brierfield, and nominate three Members to sit on the panel.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To allow for a decision to be made on a grant application.
- (2) To make the process of applying for a Premises Improvement Grant in Brierfield quicker and easier for the applicant, to allow for decisions to be made sooner and for the Committee to gain a better understanding of the applicant and their chosen scheme.

ISSUE

Premises Improvement Grant – Criteria

Committee is asked to note the suggested Criteria for the Premises Improvement Grant scheme

outlined below. Committee deferred an item from the last meeting for further information.

These grants are made to help with **Capital expenditure** on eligible buildings.

Capital expenditure is generally regarded as being that which:

- a) enhances the property significantly and/or
- b) extends its life and/or
- c) adds value to the property

The grants are NOT Revenue grants, which are generally regarded to do with the day-to-day running of a business

Eligible buildings are:

- occupied by commercial users and are located within the Borough of Pendle and lying with the town centre boundaries (PBC-local Plan)
- redundant commercial properties located within and immediately adjacent to the Town Centre Planning Boundaries

All applicants must meet **at least one of the five criteria** detailed below:

- a) improve the town's streetscape by enhancing the appearance of the property
- b) assist in the occupation of shops that have been empty for some time;
- c) lead to the introduction of businesses that extend the range of choice of goods and services;
- d) resolve a problem affecting the future of the property or its potential;
- e) create additional jobs, other than construction jobs;

Premises Improvement Grant Scheme: Re-submission of application from Brierfield Action in the Community

Approval is requested for a Premises Improvement Grant of £650 to improve the premises of Brierfield Action in the Community, 1-3 Colne Road, Brierfield. The grant would be 50% of the cost of the improvements. The improvements include newly designed signage which would be more visible and enhance the appearance of the building. The approval is subject to the applicant obtaining any permission necessary for the changes through the planning system.

As officers we recommend that this grant be approved as it is visible improvement to a long standing property situated in the centre of Brierfield. The appearance of the building is important for the setting of the town centre and an improvement would enhance the location.

Establish a Premises Improvement Grant Panel for all applications.

It is suggested that a panel consisting of three Members be established. This will help to speed up applications as well as providing a consistent decision making process by elected Members. Currently applications take circa 8 weeks to decide and this is an overly protracted timescale and could be considerably reduced by establishing a panel. The panel would still consist of elected Councillors and would operate as other panels do in other areas of the Borough.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report

Financial: £650 is requested from the committee's budget 2019/20. The committee will require sufficient uncommitted funds within the existing budget to fund this project.

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: None arising directly from this report

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