

REPORT FROM: Planning, Economic Development & Regulatory Services

TO: West Craven Committee

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West Craven Premises Improvement Grants: Update

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Members of the West Craven Committee on the Premises improvements grants scheme in the 2019/20 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 Barnoldswick in the 2020/21 finance year. And agrees to a slippage of £1715 for Earby from the current finance year with funds added of £1,285 to total £3000.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the premises improvement grants scheme in the 2019/20 financial year.
- (2) To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to continue for Earby and for Barnoldswick.

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 grants 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 Premises Improvement Grants for improving access to buildings for disabled people.

Premises improvement grants 2019/20

5. The budget allocation in Barnoldswick for the 2019/20 financial year was £0 as the money was allocated for improvements to the public square. Depending on the requirements of other town centre improvements, that £3000 be allocated in WCAC's budget for 2020/21 for Premises Improvement Grants for Barnoldswick.
6. Earby received an allocation for 2019/20 of £2615 which was the slippage from the previous year. Grant spend for Earby was £0 but £900 has been approved for the Old Grammar School, leaving a total of £1715. In addition there are currently 3 enquiries for Earby which are in the early stages. The request would be to slip this amount into the 2020/21 and add at an additional £1285 to bring it up to £3000 (max grant for one business is £1500). And that the committee be open to further requests for further budget in the 2020/21 if demand requires it.
7. Both towns have been targeted though our digital newsletter in a recent promotion and the Economic Development team have received enquiries for both towns. In light of recent circumstances of Covid-19 we would request that the money is continued to be allocated to help Economic Development Team support our town centre shops.

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