

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

**TO:** Brierfield & Reedley Committee

**DATE:** 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

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## **Brierfield Premises Improvement Grants: 2019/20 Summary**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the Committee on the progress made on the Brierfield premises improvement grants Scheme in 2019/20 financial year.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agrees to suggested allocation of an initial £3000 (Separate capital programme bid).

### **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.

### **ISSUE**

Premises Improvement grant scheme: Background

- 1) All business premises within the defined town centre boundary were eligible for a 50% grant up to a maximum of £3000, for improvements to their premises.
- 2) Premises improvement grants are promoted, targeted and administered by Economic Development staff. The Economic Development Team supports the applicants throughout the application process.

- 3) Having financial assistance available to businesses can be a contributing factor when making a decision on their business location. This could have a positive impact on vacancy rates in a town and help fill the current vacant properties.

#### Premises Improvement Grants 2019-20

1. It is requested that the Committee allocates sufficient funding in order to make decisions throughout the year to approve funding for premises improvement grants. An initial capital funding allocation of £3000 is suggested.
2. 3 grants were paid out in the last financial year of 2019-20 to a Travel agency £3000, a Community organisation £650 and a Hairdressers £1952.
3. All towns have been targeted though our digital newsletter in a recent promotion and the Economic Development team have received a number of enquiries for Brierfield.
4. 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 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**