



**REPORT FROM: PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: NELSON COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**Report Author: Michael Williams**  
**Tel. No: 01282 661963**  
**E-mail: [michael.williams@pendle.gov.uk](mailto:michael.williams@pendle.gov.uk)**

## **NELSON TOWN CENTRE RE-OPENING**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- (1) To report to the committee on the RHSSF (Re-opening the High Streets Safely Fund) grant funding for Re-opening of Nelson Town Centre.
- (2) To approve spend on the website
- (3) To seek approval for the mechanism for completing the Nelson portion of the project.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) To update the committee on the spending for re-opening of Nelson high street
- (2) To approve spending on a website for Nelson Town Centre businesses.
- (3) To delegation the remaining spend on other Nelson projects to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) in order that the Committee remains apprised of developments concerning the spending on the Re-opening of Nelson Town Centre
- (2) T9 approve progressing with this project

(3) In order to allow further spend to complete the project as there are no further Committees for two months which will not allow time for items to be brought back to Committee in time for the spend to be completed by the deadline for the scheme to end.

## Update on spending

### 1. ERDF Grant Funding

RHSSF Grant Funding Allocated to Nelson: £20,680

Spending approved so far by Nelson Committee is as follows:

Item	Actual Spend	Planned Spend	Total	Remainder
<b>Nelson - Grant Allocation £20,680</b>				
Sanitisers		£1,194		
Anti-Bac Liquid (Est 3 Months)		£1,260		
Lamppost banners for safety messages	1,518.50			
Banner installation		£400		
We Love Nelson Safety Campaign Printwork		£1,000		
We Love Nelson Safety Campaign Distribution		£2,485		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,518.50</b>	<b>£6,339</b>	<b>£7,858</b>	<b>£12,823</b>

### Council Funding (Non-ERDF)

<b>PBC Funding</b>	<b>£11,830</b>
<b>PBC Funding Spend</b>	<b>£2,467.88</b>
<b>Non Grant Funding Remaining</b>	<b>£9,362.12</b>

At the time of this report the following progress on these projects is as follows:

- The lamppost banners are now in place
- The sanitisers have been ordered and will be delivered by the hoped for re-opening of many businesses on the high street, i.e. April 12<sup>th</sup>
- The Love Nelson campaign will be timed to happen for around one month after the re-opening, i.e. for the middle of May onwards
- After the approval for the development of a website for Nelson's town centre businesses a specification for website procurement has been drawn up with different options to include
  - Standard website – to include safety messages – with contact details and links to businesses own websites
  - More advanced website – more like a Visit Nelson site with more information
  - Website with C&C service - A website but with Click & Collect service added

### 2. Website

Whilst a specification for these website options can be sent out to suitable companies the following should be noted:

- The standard website will give businesses an electronic presence, and only cost around £2000. As long as, at least initially, the site covers the safety measures being adopted by the shops in order to re-open safely it should be covered by the RHSSF Grant

- Though some companies can collect business information, at least initially, it is extremely labour intensive to collect and update this information
- That a Visit Nelson style website can be tailored and because of it being much more than safety messages would not be covered by the grant.
- The Click and Collect (C&C) service is something that can be promoted on a website but requires the provision of this service on more advanced platforms, for instance E-commerce platforms and the logistics that go with it. Outside of already existing well-established platforms, like Amazon, It is an expensive and labour-intensive project. There is a company that could provide a web platform and C&C service but which requires a minimum budget of £12,000 every year to run that service. This can be shared with one other small town.
- Beyond their “virtual highstreet” as it was dubbed, the C&C service was offered by Colne for a short period of time, but is now being closed.
- The Grant Body for RHSSF have indicated that they cannot say whether a Click & Collect service would be covered by the grant and therefore it should be assumed any expenditure on such a service would need to be covered by non-grant money. The Grant Body have said that under no circumstance would they accept any mixed –funded grants, ie a mix of grant and non-grant funded projects. A project would be EITHER grant funded OR not

Decision requested:

- a) The Committee needs to make a decision and approve an approach for any expenditure on a website and/or Click & Collect service for Nelson based on the information in this report
- b) Due to the temporary suspension of Committees due to the May Elections and the tight deadline with the Grant Body, it is requested that the Planning, Economic & Regulatory Services Manager be given operational control of carrying on all projects listed above, including the development of a website or other service and the spending of all monies (grant and non-grant based) to ensure the successful completion of any agreed projects.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** None arising directly from this report

**Financial:** Total allocation for helping Nelson’s town centre’s businesses is £32,510 in total. This is made up of £20,680 which is ERDF grant funded from the RHSS fund, and £11,830 is Pendle Council/Area Committee funded. The ERDF proportion is to be claimed back once expenditure is defrayed and the grant will only be paid in respect of Eligible Expenditure.

**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:** None arising directly from this report

**APPENDICES** None

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS** None