

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

**TO:** West Craven Committee

**DATE:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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## **West Craven Premises Improvement Grants: Summary 2020/21**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update Members of West Craven Committee on the Premises Improvements Grants scheme in 2020/21.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the Committee note the summary of the Premises Improvement Grants scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agree to a carrying forward the remaining funding allocation of £3000 for Barnoldswick in the 2020/21 financial year. And agree to a slippage of £2100 for Earby and to add to it to make the total allocation for 2021/22 £3000.
- (3) That the Committee agree to nominate a Grant Panel for Earby and one for Barnoldswick consisting of 2 members each, for the year.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the Premises Improvement Grants scheme in the 2020/21 financial year.
- (2) To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to continue for Earby and for Barnoldswick,
- (3) To allow Grant Panel members to be decided by the Members of the Committee.

### **ISSUE**

#### Premises Improvement Grants 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 the 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 2020/21

5. The budget allocation in Barnoldswick for the 2020/21 financial year was £3000. No grants were paid for this year however we currently have 4 enquiries for the town. However with Committee agreeing to carry forward the 2020/21 into the 2021/22 year then it could hopefully facilitate the 4 enquiries we currently based on previous years' experience and spend.
6. Earby received an allocation for 2020/21 of £3000. Grant spend for Earby was £900 on the Old Grammar School, leaving a total of £2100. In addition there are currently 2 enquiries for Earby. The request would be to slip the £2100 into the 2021/22 and add at least an additional £900 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 2021/22 if demand requires it.
7. Both towns will continue to be targeted though our digital newsletter in promotions and the Economic Development team have received enquiries for both towns. In light of the Covid-19 impact 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.