



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

TO: NELSON AND BRIERFIELD COMMITTEE

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NELSON AND BRIERFIELD 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 and Brierfield Town Centres.
- (2) To report to the Committee on the Welcome Back Fund (WBF).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To update the committee on the spending for re-opening of Nelson and Brierfield high streets.
- (2) To suggest spending for the Welcome Back Fund.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) In order that the Committee remains apprised of developments concerning the spending on the Re-opening of Nelson and Brierfield Town Centres.
- (2) In order that the Committee decides on further spending on its allocation from the Welcome Back Fund.

Update on spending

1. ERDF Grant Funding for Nelson

RHSSF Grant Funding Allocated to Nelson: £20,680

Spending approved so far by Nelson Committee is as follows:

Place & Allocation	Item	Actual Spend Exc VAT	Planned Spend (EX VAT)	Total	Remainder
Nelson	Sanitisers x 6 & liquid	£2,342.75			
	Additional Sanitisers x 6 & Liquid		£1,742.58		
66D03	Lamppost banners for safety messages	£1,518.50			
	Banner installation	£1,560.00			
	We Love Nelson Campaign Printwork		1,269.00		
	We Love Nelson Campaign Distribution		1,956.74		
	Final Footfall Count in 2022		190.00		
	Website (inc potential C&C) for 1 yr. Budget £12k shared with Brierfield		0.00		
ERDF 4705	Total				
	£20,680	£5,421.25	5,158.32	£10,579.57	£10,100.43

Council Funding (Non-ERDF) for Nelson

PBC Funding	£11,830
PBC Funding Spend	£2,467.88
Non Grant Funding Remaining	£9,362.12

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

- The lamppost banners are now in place
- Hand sanitisers stations have been delivered to 10 businesses (6 in Nelson and 4 in Brierfield). A couple of additional businesses in Nelson and one in Brierfield have expressed interest in receiving one of the sanitiser stations
- The We Love Nelson campaign is now in place with twelve businesses in the town each displaying their posters and entries have been coming in. It is hope that this Treasure Hunt style competition will encourage many to walk around Nelson town centre and appreciate what there is here. The entry form is available online and 34,000 competition postcards have been sent out to local households. The Closing date for entries is initially July 19th - though this can be extended if required. £600 will need to be set aside from the Area Committee's non-grant spend to cover the three prizes for this competition
- The development of a website for Nelson's and Brierfields' town centre businesses has not yet occurred. There is still money in the existing fund to have a good website developed to help support the town centre's businesses. The new WBF guidelines (see APPENDIX 1) allow for a website with a wider brief beyond the safety messages with a platform for wider promotion. It is recommended that with the Committee's approval that a website is now procured for Nelson and Brierfield's businesses. This will bear close resemblance to the already developed "Come to Barrowford" website with a wider chance to promote the town

- Any development of a website will need to reflect that a lot of work has to be done “on the ground” to generate business involvement, whether that is done so by the company employed or, as in Barrowford’s case, by a local Councillor.

2. ERDF Grant Spending for Brierfield

RHSSF Grant Funding Allocated to Brierfield: £7310

Committee spending approved so far is as follows:

Place & Allocation	Item	Actual Spend Exc VAT	Planned Spend (EX VAT)	Total	Remainder
Brierfield	Sanitisers x 4 and anti-bac liquid (Proportion of total cost)	£1,629.75	0.00		
	Additional Sanitiser		£290.43		
66C03	Posters (£20 coded to Nelson)	£0.00	0.00		
	Final Footfall Count in 2022		190.00		
ERDF 4705	Website (inc potential C&C) for 1 yr. Budget £12k shared with Nelson		0.00		
£7,310	Total	£1,629.75	480.43	£2,110.18	£5,199.82

Council Funding (Non-ERDF) for Brierfield

PBC Funding	£4,180
PBC Funding Spend	£0
Non Grant Funding Remaining	£4,180

3. Welcome Back Fund

The Welcome Back Fund is a continuation of RHSSF and Pendle Council as a whole has been allocated a further £81,200 for 2021/22 to ensure the safe re-opening of its town centres. This is still ERDF/Government grant spending but the terms by which the money can be spent has been widened and these can be seen in APPENDIX 1 (Guidelines for spending under WBF). As can be seen from these guidelines the existing four strands from RHSSF have been added to by two new strands, which in basic terms are as follows:

- Place-based marketing and providing for safer/nicer green spaces/public realm improvements, such as better seating/beautification projects
- Trial new ideas in relation to planning for the future – pilot projects and strategies which mitigate against the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic

The following is “Out of Scope” for the grant:

- Projects which provide no additionality
- Capital spend (apart from seating)
- Project that directly benefit individual businesses

The money must be spent and evidenced by the end of March 2022.

The allocation for Nelson is £25,170 and the allocation for Brierfield is £12,180

This is based on an exact proportioning of Nelson and Brierfield wards from population data.

4. Current Position

Nelson

Remaining grant funding from RHSSF for Nelson is £10,100

Any unspent monies from RHSSF can be carried over into WBF as long as they are spent and evidenced by the end of March 2022

In addition the new WBF Allocation for Nelson is £25,170

So the TOTAL Amount in grant funding for Nelson to spend is £35,270

In addition there is £8,762 of Area Committee monies, provided the Area Committee confirms carry over of these funds

Brierfield

Remaining grant funding from RHSSF for Brierfield is £5,199

Any unspent monies from RHSSF can be carried over into WBF as long as they are spent and evidenced by the end of March 2022

In addition the new WBF Allocation for Brierfield is £12,180

So the TOTAL Amount in grant funding for Brierfield to spend is £17,379

In addition there is £4,180 of Area Committee monies, provided the Area Committee confirms carry over of these funds

- a. **Recommendation** It is recommended that the members or Chair of each area Committee discuss how each town wishes to spend its funding with a designated officer from the Planning, Economic Development and RS Department and then approves that spend at Committee at their earliest convenience.
- b. **Reason for recommendation** Stringent procurement procedures are in force with this funding and therefore once ALL area committees have decided on their spend then an overall procurement plan will be put in place for the whole of Pendle. This will also ensure a proper Co-ordinated Spending Plan for Pendle is put in place – this is also a requirement of the grant funding. Decisions on spend should be made as soon as possible as the procurement process can take time

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report

Financial: As detailed in this 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: None arising directly from this report

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report

APPENDICES APPENDIX 1 – Guidelines for spending for the Welcome Back Fund (WBF)
https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2914/nelson_brierfield_and_reedley_committee

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS