



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

**TO:** Barrowford & Western Parishes Committee

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## Barrowford 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 Barrowford Town Centre.
- (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 Barrowford high street
- (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 Barrowford Town Centre
- (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

RHSSF Grant Funding Allocated to Barrowford: £6,480

Spending approved so far by Barrowford Committee is as follows:

Place & Allocation	Item	Actual Spend Exc VAT	Planned Spend (EX VAT)	Total	Remainder
<b>Barrowford</b>	Red Rose Safety Adverts x 4 (4 x £143.50)	£574.00			
66B03	Montgomery Signs	£270.00			
	Website	£1,949.00			
<b>ERDF 4705</b>	videos	£1,750.00			
	Print safety leaflets		£1,200.00		
	Final footfall count in 2022		£190.00		
<b>£6,480</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,543.00</b>	<b>£1,390.00</b>	<b>£5,933.00</b>	<b>£547.00</b>
<b>NON ERDF 4706</b>					
<b>£3,700</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£3,700.00</b>

### Council Funding (Non-ERDF)

<b>PBC Funding</b>	<b>£3,700</b>
<b>PBC Funding Spend</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Non Grant Funding Remaining</b>	<b>£3,700.00</b>

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

- The first advert appeared in January's Red Rose magazine and there are further adverts to follow
- The "hero" videos have been made and are posted on the Barrowford website
- The website [www.cometobarrowford.com](http://www.cometobarrowford.com) is now up and running and has been amended to meet grant eligibility
- The safety leaflets are being printed and will be distributed as soon as is practicable

### 2. 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:

1. Place-based marketing and providing for safer/nicer green spaces/public realm improvements, such as better seating/beautification projects
2. 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:

1. Projects which provide no additionality
2. Capital spend (apart from seating)
3. Project that directly benefit individual businesses

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

The allocation for Barrowford is £8,119

This is based on an exact proportioning of Barrowford wards from population data.

### **3. Current Position**

Remaining grant funding from RHSSF for Barrowford is £547

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 Barrowford is £8,119

**So the TOTAL Amount in grant funding for Barrowford to spend is £8,666**

**In addition there is £3,700 of Area Committee monies, provided the Area Committee confirms carry over of these funds**

### **4. Future Plans**

- 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

## **IMPLICATIONS**

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

**Financial:** As included 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

**APPENDIX 1 – Guidelines for spending for the Welcome Back Fund**