

REPORT FROM: Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager

TO: Colne and District Committee

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Colne 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 Colne Town Centre.
2. To report to the Committee on the Welcome Back Fund (WBF).

Recommendations

1. To update the committee on the RHSSF spending for re-opening of Colne 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 Colne 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 Funding

RHSSF Grant Funding Allocated to Colne: £15,410.

Suggested spending on two totem digital signs was approved by Colne Committee in March

The cost of these units is £10,850

At the time that this report has been put together the progress on these is as follows:

- a) We have contracted with the sign company to provide two totem digital signs
- b) A survey was carried out to ensure the correct connections to the electrical supply
- c) Our engineering section is involved in ensuring the correct strength for the base
- d) The spending up to a maximum of £4,560 on the installation of the signs. We expect that the installation costs will be lower but these maximum costs are the remainder of the grant allocation
- e) A final footfall count will need to be carried out in 2022 to evidence outputs and this will cost £190 per town. This results in the current remaining budget of £4,370
- f) The Committee should note that although we are working in partnership with Colne BID on this project that the grant funding is to Pendle Council and that the electronic totem will remain for the Council to use and be responsible for in the future. Therefore it must be used for community safety messages and for the benefit of all Colne's businesses not just those who are members of Colne BID

2. Council Funding (Non-ERDF)

Colne Committee allocated £10,000 of direct council funding (non-grant) to the Colne Virtual Highstreet Project. This was made up of £8,810 of the original funding to help Colne highstreet and £1,190 of Capital Funding. The project was kindly organised by Colne BID and a report from them on that project was received by the Committee in January 2021. No further non-grant money has been allocated in this financial year.

3. Welcome Back Fund

The Welcome Back Fund is a continuation of RHSSF and Pendle Council as a whole has been allocated a further £81,195 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 Colne is £20,299

This is based on an exact proportioning of Colne and its associated wards from population data.

4. Current Position

Remaining funding from RHSSF for Colne is £4,370

In addition the new WBF Allocation of £20,299

TOTAL Amount is £24,669 for Colne to spend

Some of which needs to be used to pay for the installation of the totems

4.2 Recommendation It is recommended that members or the 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.

4.3 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 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 under WBF

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS None