

REPORT FROM: Planning, Economic Development & Regulatory Services

TO: West Craven Committee

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West Craven Premises Improvement Grants: Summary 2021/22

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members of West Craven Committee on the premises improvements grants scheme in the 2021/22 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agrees to carrying forward the remaining funding allocation of £3,000 for Barnoldswick in the 2022/23 finance year, agrees to a slippage of £1,525 for Earby and that £1,475 is added to the balance to make the total allocation of £3,000 for 2022/23.
- (3) That the Committee agree to nominate 2 Grant Panel members 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 2021/22 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 Grant 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 applicants 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 create 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 2021/22

5. The budget allocation in Barnoldswick for the 2021/22 financial year was that any projects would be considered in line with other bids to the Capital Programme. No grants were paid out. There have been a number of recent enquiries about the premises grants in Barnoldswick but none have currently applied for funding. We ask that £3,000 is allocated this year for premises improvement grants.
6. Earby had one grant paid out to the Brewery Tap, which was for £1,475. There have been a number of recent enquiries about the premises grants in Earby but none have currently applied for funding. We request that the slippage of £1,525 is carried over and £1,475 is added to the balance to make a total for the 2022/23 year of £3,000.
7. Both towns will continue to be targeted through 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 the Economic Development Team support our town centre shops as we anticipate business to feel confident opening up properly now and with the current economic climate to support them as much as we can.

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.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS