

REPORT FROM: PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
REGULATORY SERVICES MANAGER

TO: NELSON, BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE

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PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: 2022/23 SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the progress made on the Nelson and Brierfield premises improvement grants Scheme in 2022/23 financial year, and request an additional funding allocation to allow the programme to continue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agree to a funding allocation of £15,000 for Nelson & Brierfield for the 2023/24 year.
- (3) That the Committee agree to nominate a minimum of two 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 so far in the 2022/23 financial year.
- (2) To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to fund future projects.
- (3) To allow Grant Panel members to be decided by the Members of the Committee.

ISSUE

Premises Improvement grant scheme: Background

1. All businesses within the Nelson and Brierfield town centre boundaries are eligible for a premises improvement grant. The grant programme aims to improve the overall appearance

of the town centre by assisting businesses to improve premises and encourage the take up of vacant properties.

2. The grants scheme is a tool used to encourage private investment in town centre buildings; the outcome of this investment is an aesthetic improvement to the town centre and in turn increases retail and public confidence in the area. The grants can encourage the use of vacant buildings as they can reduce the overall cost of changing the exterior of the building to suit the needs of the incoming business
3. All business premises within the defined town centre boundary are eligible for a 50% grant up to a maximum of £3000, for improvements to their premises. Premises improvement grants are administered by Economic Development staff. The Economic Development Team supports the applicant throughout the application process.

Premises improvement grants summary - Nelson

1. Nelson has had four applications in 2022/23, three have been approved, allocated and paid out. Amounts were for £2,250, £2,903 and £2,475.
2. The remaining application has been approved and is currently allocated but not paid out as work has not yet been completed by the applicant.
3. The amount allocated for this applicant is £3,000. Work will be completed in 2023/24. It is requested that £3,000 be carried forward to enable the team to fulfil this grant offer.
4. Leaving £33,541 unspent. This amount is to be deallocated.
5. Nelson received seven enquiries.
6. Committee agreeing to a new funding allocation of £15,000 for 2023/24 includes the carried forward funding for the outstanding allocated application of £3,000. Once paid out it will leave £12,000 in 2023/24 to support four applications from businesses in Nelson and Brierfield Town Centres.
7. Nelson continues to show healthy interest in the Grant scheme, if more funding is required due to further applications in the next year of 2023/24 the Economic Development Team will then provide a further report request such.

Premises improvement grants summary - Brierfield

1. Brierfield received two enquiries in 2022/23, one did not progress to application and one was out of the criteria area.
2. Brierfield had no applications for 2022/23.
3. On average it would be expected by the team to process two applications in a year for Brierfield
4. Brierfield continues to show moderate interest in the Grant scheme, if more enquiries are received than expected and more funding is required due to further applications in the next year of 2023/24 the Economic Development Team will then provide a further report request such.

All towns will continue to be targeted through our digital newsletter in promotions and the Economic Development team have received enquiries across Pendle.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report

Financial: As outlined 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 Nelson town centre and in turn encourage the use of local town centres

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report

Equality and Diversity: grants are accessible to all businesses within the town centre.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Premises Improvement Grant Scheme Grant Criteria

Nelson Map