

**REPORT FROM:** Planning, Economic Development & Regulatory Services

**TO:** West Craven Committee

**DATE:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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## West Craven Premises Improvement Grants: Summary 2022/23

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Members of the West Craven Committee on the Premises improvements grants scheme in the 2022/23 financial year.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agrees to a funding allocation of £3,000 for Barnoldswick in the 2023/24 finance year. And agrees to a funding allocation of £1,912.50 for Earby in the 2023/4 finance year.
- (3) That the Committee agree to nominate a minimum of two Grant Panel members for the year 2023/24.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the premises improvement grants scheme in the 2022/23 financial year.
- (2) To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to continue for Barnoldswick and Earby in 2023/24 year.
- (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 that 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 creating 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 2022/23 - Barnoldswick

1. Barnoldswick received two applications this year which have been completed and paid out. All the budget has been spent. Both applications were for the maximum grant of £1,500 each.
2. Barnoldswick received one application for £412.50 that is not yet completed. Discussed under Earby budget.
3. Barnoldswick received two enquiries in 2022/23.
4. A funding allocation of £3,000 would allow support to be given to two applicants in 2023/24.
5. On average it would be expected by the team to process two applications in a year for Barnoldswick.
6. Barnoldswick 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.

#### Earby

1. Earby has received 0 applications in 2022/23.
2. Earby received one enquiry in 2022/23.
3. Barnoldswick application – discussed and approved by Committee, an application was received for £412.50. This is allocated but not yet paid out.
4. Committee has agreed to fund the £412.50 from the Earby budget leaving £2587.50 unspent.
5. Committee agreeing a funding allocation of £1,912.50 for Earby would allow the remaining applicant to be paid out and £1,500 to support one new application in 2023/24.
6. On average it would be expected by the team to process one application in a year for Earby.
7. Earby 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.

Both towns will continue to be targeted though our digital newsletter in promotions

## **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**