



REPORT FROM: PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES MANAGER

TO: BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE

DATE: 10TH MAY 2023

Report Author: Deborah McCarthy

Tel. No: 01282 661973

E-mail: deborah.mccarthy@pendle.gov.uk

BARROWFORD PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: BOUNDARY CHANGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

For Committee to discuss proposed boundary change criteria for the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the proposed boundary change.
- (2) That the Committee agrees to the proposed boundary change and for it be implemented by the Economic Development Team in 2023/24.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to agree and approve the proposed boundary.
- (2) To have a positive impact on take up of the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme within Barrowford.

ISSUE

Premises Improvement Grant Scheme: Background

1. All business premises within the defined town centre boundary were eligible for a 50% Grant up to a maximum of £3000, for improvements to their premises.
2. The Grant programme aims to improve the overall appearance of the town centre by assisting businesses to improve premises and encourage the use of vacant properties. 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. Premises Improvement Grants are promoted, targeted and administered by Economic Development staff. The Economic Development Team supports the applicants throughout the application process.
4. Having financial assistance available to businesses can be a contributing factor when making a decision on their business location. This could have a positive impact on vacancy rates in a town and help fill the current vacant properties.

Premises Improvement Grants Boundary Change

1. Barrowford's current Boundary is shown on the attached map – Appendix 1.
2. The proposed change is shown on the second attached map – Appendix 2.
3. In 2022/23 of the six enquiries received, three were in the current boundary area, two were in the proposed new boundary area, located on King Edward Terrace and Cromwell Terrace respectively and one was not a confirmed address.
4. The two out of area enquiries were disappointed they could not benefit from the scheme and for one of the enquiries impacted on their decision to take on their proposed property.
5. To include the Newbridge Shopping Area within the boundary criteria for Premises Improvement Grant Scheme would have a positive impact on the Team's response to further enquiries and a positive impact on Barrowford going forward.
6. Please note the map is for administrative purposes only. To gain confirmation and approval from the Committee on the boundary criteria area. The map is a draft only and not to be used for anything further. Once the Committee have agreed the boundary area a final map will be drawn up by the team and used by Economic Development only for the purposes of the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme.

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 Barrowford 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.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Current boundary criteria

Appendix 2: Proposed boundary

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.