

Report Title	Premises Improvement Grants 2025 - 2026
Meeting	Nelson Area Committee
Meeting Date	11 May 2026
Report Author	Mike Williams
Directorate	Economic Growth
Lead Executive Member(s)	Cllr Asjad Mahmood
Wards Affected	Nelson Area Committee's defined boundary within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradley • Brierfield East and Clover Hill • Brierfield West and Reedley • Marsden and Southfield • Whitefield and Walverden
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	N/A
Appendices (if any)	None

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the progress made on the Nelson, Brierfield & Reedley premises improvement grants Scheme in 2025/26 financial year and request funding allocation to allow the programme to continue in 2026/27.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Nelson, Brierfield & Reedley Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme.
- 2.2 That the Committee agree to a funding allocation of £15,000 for the 2026/27 year.
- 2.3 That the Committee agree to nominate a minimum of two Grant Panel members for the year.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

- 3.1 To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the premises improvement grants scheme so far in the 2025/26 financial year.
- 3.2 To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to fund future projects in 2026/27.
- 3.3 To allow Grant Panel members to be decided by the Members of the Committee.
- 3.4 To allow Members to make decisions that support the ongoing Regeneration of Nelson and Brierfield Town Centres.

Information for Summary and recommendations

Premises Improvement grant scheme: Background

3.5 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.

3.6 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.

3.7 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 the Economic Growth Team.

Premises improvement grants summary - Nelson

3.8 The Committee allocated a total budget of £15,000 for 2025/26. This is for Nelson and Brierfield.

3.9 Nelson received 25 enquiries during 2025/26.

3.10 Seven of these developed into applications. Out of those 4 businesses have already been supported with grants of £8,396.02. Kindly supported by 50% funding from Nelson Town Council (NTC) alongside the Area Committee's funding. It is hoped that NTC will continue their valuable support this financial year.

3.11 A further two Nelson businesses have had funding approved of £4,750. NTC will help fund these allocations with £2,375 with their own funding

3.12 This represents a total of £13,146.02 of which NTC will contribute £6,573.01

Premises improvement grants summary - Brierfield

3.13 We received four enquiries from Brierfield businesses in 2025/26. Two of these were approved. One has been paid with a grant of £2,687.40 with the other approved and allocated for £3000. A total for Brierfield of £5,687.40

3.14 Summary of spend

Currently spent is £11083.42

Current Income from NTC is £4198.01

Which is a Total of £6885.41 out of the £15,000 budget

So remaining is £8114.59

With approved and committed grants left of:
£3000 for one business in Brierfield and
£4750 for two businesses in Nelson

The remainder of the budget is £364.59

It is therefore requested that all monies are carried over from the 2025-26 budget. And further requested that the Committee allocate further funding of £15,000 toward this grant programme in 2026/27

It is further recommended that the Nelson & BR Committee request that Nelson Town Council (NTC) sets aside a matching amount for the 2026/27 finance year in order to assist businesses in Nelson

Because of the allocated/committed grants in 2025/26 NTC will be asked to contribute £2,375 to those two Nelson businesses in the 2026/27 year bringing their contribution to £6573.01 so far.

4 Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, Good Growth and Housing and Healthy Communities)

4.12 Good Growth/Encouragement of Economic Growth (Council Plan) and assisting local businesses as part of the current Economic Development Strategy

5 Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

As advised within this report. Head of Resources consulted.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

None specifically. Head of Legal consulted.

5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

None. Head of Economic Growth consulted

5.4 Human Resources Implications

No HR implications. Head of Personnel consulted.

5.5 Equality and Diversity Implications

N/A

6. Consultation

6.1 Businesses within the defined Nelson Premises Improvement Grants area

7. Alternative Options Considered

N/A

8. Statutory Officer Sign off (please put an x in the relevant box below)

Section 151 Officer	X
Monitoring Officer	X

9. Background Documents

N/A

Contact Officers

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