

Report Title	Premises Improvement Grants for West Craven
Meeting	West Craven Committee
Meeting Date	12 May 2026
Report Author	Mike Williams
Directorate	Economic Growth
Lead Executive Member(s)	Cllr Asjad Mahmood
Wards Affected	The designated area for Premises Improvement Grants within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnoldswick • Earby and Coates
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	N/A
Appendices (if any)	None

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To update the West Craven Committee (WCC) on the progress made on the West Craven premises improvement grants scheme in 2025/26 financial year.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, West Craven Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme for 2025/26.
- 2.2 Request the carry over of the current allocated 2025/26 funding of £6000 for Barnoldswick into the 2026/27 financial year.
- 2.3 Note that funding for these grants is being diverted into the Pride in Place Impact Fund (PIPIF) for 2026/27 financial year. A request for a re-continuance of funding allocation will be made to the West Craven Committee for the 2027/28 financial 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 in 2025/26.
- 3.2 To allow existing applicants and those already approved by the Committee's Grant Panel to be funded.

- 3.3 To allow funding for these grants to be re-continued in 2027/28.

Premises Improvement grant scheme: Background

- 3.4 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 administered by the Economic Growth Department.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Premises improvement grants can also be used for improving access to buildings for disabled people.

Summary of Information

Barnoldswick

- 3.8 WCAC set aside £6,000 to support Barnoldswick businesses with these grants in 2025/26
- 3.9 The Economic Growth Team received nine enquiries this year for these grants.
- 3.10 Three of these turned into full applications and were approved by members of WCAC's premises improvement grants Panel
- 3.11 From these three applications one has been paid (£1500), one has been approved (£1500), and another one has been approved (£1080). Leaving £1920 in the 2025/26 budget. There is a further application of £1500 which is currently almost ready for approval. If that is approved, then there will be £420 left from the 2025/26 budget. This would offer a small grant still to be claimed.
- 3.12 Barnoldswick continues to show interest in the grant scheme and more funding will be requested from West Craven Committee for these grants for 2027/28.

Earby

- 3.13 In 2025/26 a budget of £4670.83 was available and the Economic Growth Team received three enquiries during that time.

3.14 One of these applications resulted in a spend of £1500 leaving £3170.83 in the budget. It is requested that West Craven Committee carry over this amount into 2026/27 in order to continue to assist businesses in Earby.

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)

4.1 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 outlined in this report. The Head of Resources has been consulted and her amendments have been integrated into this report.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

None. Head of Legal has been consulted and approved the report.

5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

None. The Head of Economic Growth has been consulted.

5.4 Human Resources Implications

None. HR & Payroll Manager has been consulted.

5.5 Equality and Diversity Implications

N/A

6. Consultation

6.1 Businesses in the defined area for this grants programme.

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

None

Contact Officers

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