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| <b>Report Title</b>                         | Premises Improvement Grants  |
| <b>Meeting</b>                              | Colne & District Committee   |
| <b>Meeting Date</b>                         | 14 May 2026  |
| <b>Report Author</b>                        | Mike Williams  |
| <b>Directorate</b>                          | Economic Growth  |
| <b>Lead Executive Member(s)</b>             | Cllr Asjad Mahmood   |
| <b>Wards Affected</b>                       | The designated Premises Improvement Grants Area within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boulsworth and Foulridge</li> <li>• Vivary Bridge</li> <li>• Waterside and Horsfield</li> </ul> |
| <b>Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt</b> | N/A  |
| <b>Appendices (if any)</b>                  | None   |

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the progress made on the Colne premises improvement grants scheme in 2025/26 financial year and request a funding allocation to allow the programme to continue.

## 2. Recommendations

**For the reasons set out in this report, Colne & District Area 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 carry over of £3000 from 2025/26 with a further funding allocation of £3,000 for the 2026/27 year. Total budget of £6000.
- 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 continue and 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 Colne Town Centre.

### **Premises Improvement Grant Scheme: Background**

3.5 All businesses within the Colne town centre boundary 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 use of vacant properties. The grants are funded by Colne Area Committee.

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**

3.8 In 2025/26 Colne Area Committee allocated a budget of £6,000. One applicant was paid out £3000.

3.9 In that period the Economic Growth Team received seven grant enquiries

3.10 The Economic Growth Team request that the Committee agree to carrying the remaining funding allocation of £3,000 from 2025/26 into 2026/27 and add a further £3000 on top. This would give a total budget of £6000 in 2026/27 which would support two Colne businesses up to the end of March 2027. This is based on the maximum grant amount of £3,000 for each applicant.

## **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 Encouragement of Economic Growth (Service Plan) and assisting local businesses as part of the current Economic Development Strategy

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

As advised in this report, Head of Resources consulted

### **5.2 Legal and Governance Implications**

None. Head of Legal consulted.

### **5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications**

None. Head of Economic Growth consulted

### **5.4 Human Resources Implications**

None. HR & Payroll Manager consulted

### **5.5 Equality and Diversity Implications**

N/A

## **6. Consultation**

6.1 Businesses within the designated Premises Improvement Grant 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**

None

### **Contact Officers**

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