

REPORT FROM: Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services

TO: Nelson Committee

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Premises Improvement Grants: Update

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the progress made on the Nelson premises improvement grants Scheme in 2018/19 financial year, and request an additional funding allocation to allow the programme to continue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee notes the summary of the premises improvement grant scheme.
- (2) That the Committee agree to a further funding allocation of £9,543 (Capital bid) alongside the carry over of £5,457 unallocated budget. This would make the initial 2019/20 budget £15,000. Potentially helping 5 local businesses throughout the 2019/20 financial year.
- (3) This would be in addition to the slippage of all monies associated with the already approved grants 2018/19 as listed below.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the premises improvement grants scheme so far in the 2018/19 financial year.
- (2) To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to fund future projects.
To allow for all existing approved grants to be given to businesses within a reasonable timeframe
- (3) To allow for all existing approved grants to be given to businesses within a reasonable timeframe

ISSUE

Premises Improvement grant scheme: Background

1. All businesses within the Nelson 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 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
2. 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 Economic Development staff. The Economic Development Team supports the applicant throughout the application process.

Premises improvement grants summary

3. In this financial year (2018/19) a budget of £24,363 was available for Premises Improvement Grants. This was made up of £14,363 of slippage from the previous year as well as from an allocation in June by NAC of £10,000 out of the 2018/19 Capital Programme. The table below illustrates the projects throughout this financial year and their current status.

Business	Address	Grant Value £	Total of matched funding from the business £	Grant Used For	Outputs new jobs	Outputs jobs safe guarded
Tax Office PAID	108 Scotland Rd	3000	4150	Shop front & sandblasting	4	3
24hr Management Partly Paid	65 Scotland Rd	3000	3680	Signage & Cladding (Awaiting PP for signage)	4	2
Impressions APPROVED	8 Market Square	3000	3168	Shopfront & Disabled access	0	3
Café Express APPROVED	14-16 Market Square	2995	2995	Shopfront	0	3 FTEs
Freddies APPROVED	70 Manchester Rd	3000	3700	Signage	0	4FTEs
Games@9 APPROVED	9 Scotland Rd	2300	4600	Shopfront	0	4
Midway Blinds APPROVED	37 Scotland Rd	3000	3000	Shopfront	0	1

Building Bridges	Market Place	3000	3000	Shopfront & Signage	4	4
Work done						
Total		23295	28293		12	24

4. If all these projects spend their grant, there would've only have been £1,068 left in the budget. There continues to be strong interest and demand from businesses in Nelson for these grants, therefore NAC in December 2018 provided additional funding of £7389 which took the total to £8457. However there is a further business which has just been approved for a grant of £3000, which means the total budget remaining will be £5,457. There have been in addition to further enquiries for grant at present.

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 Colne 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.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None