

STOREFRONT GRANT SCHEME

REPORT OF: Economic Development Officer
Contact Officer: William Hawkins
Email: william.hawkins@midsussex.gov.uk
Tel: 01444 477322
Wards Affected: East Grinstead

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present one application for the Storefront Improvement Grant Scheme

Summary

2. A summary of the applications to be considered, together with officer recommendations for the level of financial assistance to be awarded is set out in the table below:

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award requested	Award suggested
Market Square Food and Wine	Painting and Redecoration	£1,340	£1,340
Total		£1,380	£1,380

Recommendation

Members of the Panel are requested to:

- ***Consider and decide upon the recommendations for each of the above grants. Summaries grant applications are attached in Appendix A of this report***

Background

3. This is the second meeting of the Cabinet Grants Panel to consider the 2019 Storefront Grant Scheme. This paper will present one further application of the five interested stores within East Grinstead. The Economic Development Team have been working with stores to support their application submission.

Assessment and Policy Context

4. The grants in this report have been considered by the Council's Economic Development Officer, William Hawkins and the Council's Regeneration and Economy Programme Manager, Mark Healy. The proposal to focus the grants in East Grinstead was agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, at the time, Councillor Jonathan Ash-Edwards. A summary of each application is included within the individual project reports in Appendix A.
5. All the businesses included in this paper have met the basic criteria and specific grant criteria; that is they are properly constituted independent retail businesses within the town of East Grinstead and provided the relevant information to support their application.

Financial Implications

6. The Storefront Grants are funded through an allocation from the WSCC Strategic Infrastructure Fund, with £204,000 to be divided proportionally between districts. A total of £21,000 was allocated to Mid Sussex District.

7. The current fund stands at:

Scheme	Original fund	Funds approved so far	Funds requested in this paper	Balance (<i>if all bids in this paper are approved</i>)
Storefront Grant Scheme	£21,000	£ 3,950	£1,340	£15,630

Risk Management Implications

8. The main risk associated with the successful implementation of the decisions arising from this report is the inability of the funded organisations to carry out the services, activities or equipment purchase for which funding had been awarded.
9. To minimise this risk, the decision has been taken to only pay out the grants following proof, from the applicant, that the project in question has begun, or equipment has been purchased. This could be in the form of receipts, invoices and other related documents

Equality implications

10. All of the businesses whose bids are included in this report were assessed to be in compliance with the requisite policies/legislation.

Legal Implications

11. The Council is not obliged to provide grant funding, but by virtue of section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, it is able to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area. This includes incurring expenditure, giving financial assistance to any person (or organisation) and entering into arrangements or agreements with any person.

Background Papers

12. Grant applications and associated documentation for the Storefront Grant Scheme are held in the Economic Development Team.