

STOREFRONT GRANT SCHEME

REPORT OF: Economic Development Officer
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Wards Affected: All

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present two applications 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
Fine Baps	New signage, awning and façade improvements.	£4,000	£4,000
Grape & Grain	New signage, window and forecourt improvements.	£4,000	£4,000
Total		£8,000	£8,000

Recommendation

Members of the Panel are requested to:

- ***Consider and decide upon the recommendations for the above grant. Summaries of the grant application is attached in Appendix A of this report***

Background

3. This is the fourth meeting of the Cabinet Grants Panel to consider the 2019/20 Storefront Grant Scheme. This paper will present two applications of a new wave of applicant retailers in regard to the scheme. The newly contacted retailers have either expressed interest in early promotion of the scheme or have previously taken part in independent retailers training workshops organised by Mid Sussex District Council. The Economic Development Team has been working with these 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 expand the applicant base for the scheme was agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Councillor Stephen Hillier. A summary of the 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 Mid Sussex 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 (if all bids in this paper are approved)
Storefront Grant Scheme	£21,000	£ 5,290	£8,000	£3,710

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.