

## Report Statement

### Report Purpose:

Glow Up Grants

### Author:

Town Clerk

## Background

At Full Council 6th March 2023 it was resolved to offer a 'Glow Up' Grant scheme to aid local independent businesses and help the regeneration of the town. The grant is available to local independent SME's to help them improve their shop fronts, using the design guide we have produced to enhance the look of their businesses and make them stand out as gems on our high street and in our town.

The initial amount for the fund is £15,000 which was taken from the Covid Recovery budget. Businesses could apply for up to £1,000. They would be eligible from this grant fund once.

Plans and costs would be part of the application process and the Macclesfield Shop Front Design Guide would aid this process. The Design Guide contains information about when planning permission is required and advice on the principles of good design, artwork and improvements to signage and shopfronts.

Applications may include:

- Repainting
- Artwork for the windows
- Towards costs of awnings (subject to approval from CEC)
- New Signage
- Blooms e.g. hanging baskets

## Update

The application form and declaration, that must be signed by the business if successful, is attached.

There are 3 proposals for the decision making process as follows:

### Proposal 1:

1. Application form is downloadable from the website.
2. Completed applications sent to Clerk.
3. Panel of Officers and Cllrs agreed to be decision makers on the applications.
4. Panel meets twice per year to make decisions.
5. Closing date September 11th Midday 2023
6. Closing Date Feb 12th Midday 2024.

### Proposal 2

1. Application form is downloadable from the website.
2. Completed applications sent to Clerk.

3. Panel of Officers and Cllrs agreed to be decision makers on the applications.
4. Like the Microgrants process, the applications will be sent to the panel and decided by agreement over emails.
5. There would be a four week period to make a decision.

### **Proposal 3**

The applications can go to any planning meetings as an agenda item for decisions.