

Failsworth & Hollinwood District Executive

Investing in Vibrant District Centres – A Framework for Business Support and Premises Improvement for A62 Failsworth corridor

Report of Carol Brown, Assistant Executive Director,
Neighbourhoods

Portfolio Responsibility: Neighbourhoods

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1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to agree a policy framework for supporting new and existing independent businesses and to assist with the improvement of the physical appearance of premises along the A62 Failsworth Corridor

2. Executive Summary

The Council recognises the important role that independent businesses play in sustaining the vibrancy and vitality of our High Streets.

The Council's Cabinet has previously approved schemes to provide business support through premises improvement grants in the Yorkshire Street/Union Street East area of Oldham Town Centre, Shaw and Lees District Centres.

On 15 December the Council's Cabinet approved a further £100k from its capital programme to support a similar scheme for the A62 corridor in Failsworth.

The A62 corridor is one of the major gateways into and out of Oldham and has been subject to public realm improvement. The purpose of the grant scheme is to improve the physical appearance of buildings along the route and to support existing and new businesses.

3. Recommendations

1. To approve the proposed boundary and delivery framework for grant support.
2. To agree the decision making process for grant approval and nominate three Local Ward members to act as the review panel.
3. To note the delivery arrangements, points of contact and the role of District Executive Members in promoting the scheme.

4. Delivery Framework

In order to draft the proposed Delivery Framework in advance of the District Executive meeting, Officers consulted with Cllrs McMahon and Garry.

The proposed boundary has been drafted to take in the majority of independent businesses along the Failsworth corridor, including those leading to Failsworth Metrolink station. The boundary obviously includes a number of non-eligible premises, including residential properties. The delivery framework, criteria and publicity will, however, make it clear which premises are eligible for support.

The proposed boundary is included at Appendix 1. A larger scale plan will be made available at the District Executive meeting.

A total of £100k has been allocated from the Council's Capital Programme. The proposed delivery framework at Appendix 2 provides the basis on which the scheme will operate and includes a sample guidance note and application form.