

Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme – The Kevin Cantlon Fund

Purpose

To consider the setting up of a Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme called the Kevin Cantlon Fund.

Background

1. The Council's vision for making Surrey Heath an even better place to live, work and enjoy hasn't changed. Following on from major financial investment in the Borough last year we are already seeing financial results and are making good progress on key refurbishment and regeneration schemes; positioning ourselves to deliver significant town centre improvements and new housing over the next few years.
2. This report seeks approval for a Town and District Centres Shop Front Improvement Scheme to be delivered under the Council's Economic Development Strategy. The funding and procurement route for this Shop Front Improvement Scheme will be approved through the Council's Land & Property Board. Details of the scheme and how to apply will be set out in a document with a clear set of eligibility criteria.
3. The need for this scheme has come about through:
 - The High Street (Camberley) Working Group, it identified some changes it would like to make to the High Street which included the importance of improving the appearance of the streetscape and public realm as one of the main changes that would make the biggest difference to the High Street and would support the wider aspiration of regenerating the town centre. Some shops have carried out their own improvement works but the majority of units would benefit from shop front improvements. This investment would boost confidence in the area generally, and help to attract investment.
 - Work undertaken with the business associations across the Borough including Frimley and Bagshot again looking at schemes to help improve the streetscape and public realm which in turn will help attract inward investment.
4. Funding for the Scheme will come from section 106 money and the general fund. The fund supporting this scheme will be known as the Kevin Cantlon Fund. Kevin worked very closely with businesses across the borough and was an integral part of many of the business associations, he was also in the process of setting up the High Street Forum and had completed a high street inward investment study with the support of the Local Government Association which had supported

the setting up a shop front improvement scheme therefore the fund will be set up in his memory as a testament to his hard work in this area.

5. The total capital funding available for 2017/18 will be £100,000. This fund will be reviewed annually.
 6. The Scheme will help to address the appearance of the area by funding and implementing physical improvements to the front elevations of existing independent businesses to create attractive, thriving town and district centres that people are proud of, that customers want to visit and will encourage further investment by the existing businesses themselves.
 7. In the future the Council will work with the retail and commercial community to develop shopfront design guidelines and will consider rolling the programme out to other local centres within the borough.

Options

8. The Council has the options to adopt the setting up of a shop front improvement scheme for town and district centres called the Kevin Cantlon Fund or to amend the proposal or decline the setting up of the scheme.

Resource Implications

9. As set out above £100,000 will be put into the Kevin Cantlon Fund from Section106 contributions and the General Fund.

Recommendation

10. The Council is advised to resolve that

 - (i) a Shop Front Improvement Scheme, called the Kevin Cantlon Fund, be set up as detailed above;
 - (ii) the Corporate Capital Programme 2017/18 be increased by £100,000 to fund the setting up of the Kevin Cantlon Fund Shop Front Improvement Scheme;
 - (iii) the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Land and Property Board, be authorised to determine the funding policy and grant conditions and, thereafter, determine any applications for this Shop Front Improvement Scheme.

Annexes: None

Background Papers: None

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