



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME

The aims of the Business Improvement Grant Scheme

- Improve the overall appeal and appearance of businesses and the town
- Enhance the customer experience and reputation of Crieff as a place to visit
- Boost trade
- Contribute to the development of staff skills

The Business Improvement Grant Scheme

The Crieff Succeeds BID identified, through consultation with local businesses, the benefits of a grant support scheme that would contribute to improving the overall appeal, appearance and customer experience of businesses in Crieff.

Main Aims of the Scheme

Rather than simply a scheme that is aimed at shop frontages we are looking to offer wider support with the end objectives of;

- Improve the overall appeal and appearance of businesses and the town.
- Enhance the customer experience and reputation of Crieff as a place to visit.
- Boost trade.
- Contribute to the development of staff skills.

Eligible Activities

The Business Improvement Scheme is one of several initiatives the BID will deliver to support business growth and stimulate investment in local businesses. The scheme will offer grants of up to £1,500 for businesses to carry out:

1. Physical improvements to premises
2. Business diversification
3. Staff training and development
4. Enhancing online or e-commerce capabilities

The scheme is designed to support new and existing businesses and has higher grants available for businesses based in Crieff that through expansion or diversification are looking to take on currently vacant premises in the town.

Do you qualify for a grant?

- If your business property is located within the BID area.
- Has a non-domestic rateable value and is up to date in paying the BID Levy.
- Can highlight in the application that the project will meet at least one of the Main Aims of the Scheme and is clearly identifiable as one of the Eligible Activities

How does the scheme work?

There is an annual budget allocated to the scheme within the BID Business Plan. Businesses can apply to the scheme and awards will be decided by the BID Board of directors.

- Each scheme and annual budget runs from 1st October to 30th September.
- A new scheme will be available in each year between 2015-2020.
- When the annual budget is used up the scheme will close and re-open in the following financial year.

- A maximum grant of £1,500 is available, and will not exceed 50% of the total project costs.
- No business will be awarded more than one grant in any one financial year.

Which sort of improvements qualify for a grant?

Please note these are not exhaustive

- New signage
- Replacing doors or windows
- Painting frontages
- Installing heating
- Upgrading customer toilets
- Replacing ceilings and lighting
- New flooring
- Business advice
- Business plan and financial planning
- Staff training
- Marketing help
- E-commerce development
- Online trading improvements

What level of Grant is available?

To help small and large businesses alike the grants are available as follows:

Rateable value	Grant Available	Previously vacant properties*
Under £20,000	50% up to a maximum of £500	75% up to a maximum of £750
£20,001 - £50,000	50% up to a maximum of £750	75% up to a maximum of £1,250
Over £50,001	50% up to a maximum of £1,000	75% up to a maximum of £1,750

*To qualify for the vacant premises award the proposed premises must have been vacant for a minimum of 6 months and the lease will have at least 12 months to run.

You cannot apply for

- Work that is already underway
- 'A' Board signage or movable signage
- Work that the BID feels is not in keeping with the traditional look and feel of Crieff

Before applying you should check:

- You have the property owners' permission to undertake the work, we will need to see proof of this.
- Whether or not you need planning permission.
- Planning Permission is required for any alteration that 'materially affects the external appearance of a building, including canopies/awnings and external features.
- Guidance is provided at PKC <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/2630/What-needs-planning-permission>

Assessing your application

A sub-committee of the BID Board will assess each application on merit and will base their decision around the following factors:

- Eligibility.
- Evidence of the work being required.
- Standard of work and design being proposed.
- Visuals impact on the town and neighbouring properties.
- Is it in keeping with overall appearance of the town?
- Will the improvement enhance the customer experience?
- Necessary statutory notices and planning permissions in place.
- Availability of funds in the BID Grant Scheme.
- Evidence of a minimum of two quotes for like for like work

Awarding of Grants

We aim to make a decision on applications within 21 days following the next board meeting. If your application is successful the grant will be generally based on the lowest tender and if at all possible the services being supplied by local businesses. The works must be carried out within 6 months of the award date. Please note that Planning Permissions must be sought before an application to the BID is lodged.

Payment

The BID Board will determine the schedule of payments. In many instances 100% of the sum awarded will be paid on initial grant approval.

Further information

To chat through your ideas and to get an application form please contact the BID Manager at the Crieff Succeeds BID office. **It is recommended you talk through your application with the BID Manager before lodging your application:**

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T: 07412847098

W: www.crieffsucceeds.com

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