

Public Report
Delegated Officer Decision

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 22 June 2026

Report Title

Shopfront Grants Programme

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Priority areas are set out below, though applications from anywhere in the borough can be considered on a case by case basis:

- Boston Castle
- Dalton and Thrybergh
- Dinnington
- Wath
- Swinton
- Maltby
- Rawmarsh East
- Rawmarsh West
- Thurcroft and Wickersley South

Report Summary

The report seeks approval to continue the Shopfront Grant Scheme in 2026/27, which will now be funded through £565,666 from the Council's Local Growth Fund (LGF) allocation from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA).

The scheme has revised the priority areas it is targeting (set out in Appendix 1) and will also now fund work to bring empty units on the High Street back into use

Recommendations

1. Approval is given to commence delivery of the Shopfront Grant Scheme in the agreed Priority areas of the borough

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Prioritisation of areas and activities

Background Papers

Local Growth Fund 2026/27 allocations – Cabinet, 16th March 2026

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Cabinet – 16 March 2026

Approval of the LGF allocations, including the Shopfront Grant Scheme

[Local Growth Fund 2026/27 allocation](#)

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Shopfront Grants ProgrammeError! Reference source not found.

1. Background

- 1.1 The scheme, initially started in 2025/26, is set up to enhance the exterior of business premises in eligible High Street locations. The scheme will 100% fund up to £10,000 for the projects, with the client funding anything above this level. The criterion for the exterior is re-painting, new windows, doors and shop frontage, improved access and new signage.
- 1.2 Introduced for 2026/27, some funding is available to bring empty units back into use, with funding available to support projects up to £20,000. The first £10,000 of the project is 100% funded. Anything up to £20,000 after that is 50% match funded, meaning there is a maximum grant of £15,000 available

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Scheme will seek to revitalise local high streets across the borough, through bringing empty units back into use and improving the exteriors of existing buildings. Funding to the internal fabric of building can also be supported in certain cases.
- 2.2 The scheme will be promoted by the High Street Advisers, part of the Business Investment Team, who are currently being recruited into post.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Option 1 – continue scheme, with some revisions based on feedback from the first year – **Recommended option**
- 3.2 Option 2 – discontinue the scheme and no longer provide local businesses with grant funding to improve their premises.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Leader, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and The Local Economy and the Executive Director Regeneration and Environment have all been consulted
- 4.2 Feedback from recipients of grants in previous years of the project have been used to develop the delivery model for this phase

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 There will be two calls for grant applications, closing on the 31st July and the 16th October. Bids will then be considered by a panel comprising the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy and officers from RiDO.
- 5.2 Responsibility for awarding and managing of the funding, ensuring that the agreed outcomes are achieved, sits with the Council's Business Investment Team

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.
- 6.2 On 16th March 2026, Cabinet allocated £556,655 of capital and £110,000 of revenue Local Growth Fund (LGF) funding to the Shop Front Grant programme. The capital element will be used on the works as detailed in 1.2 and 2.1. Businesses will be reimbursed once works are complete and will need to provide sufficient evidence in order to receive the match funding. The revenue element will be used to fund the administration costs of the scheme.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The recommended proposals are in accordance with the conditions of use of the Grant Scheme. Further, the scheme is consistent with relevant public law principles, in particular it is lawful, fair and rational.
- 7.2 The Council can support this type of local provision under the “Local authority’s general power of competence”, as set out in S.1 of the Localism Act 2011 (c. 20).

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no HR implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no Children and Young People implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The scheme is targeted at a number of priority areas, which are likely to benefit most from bringing empty buildings back into use and improving the overall standard of buildings on the high street, including making them more accessible to the disabled and elderly and others with protected characteristics (see appendix 1 – EIA – for more information).

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 2

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Partners within the priority areas will be involved in the identification of suitable works within their area

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 That all the funding is not allocated
Mitigation: A Communication and Marketing Strategy to publicise the scheme will be developed. The High Street Adviser posts, currently out to recruitment, will promote the scheme within the priority areas.
- 13.2 That the funding is spent on ineligible activity.
Mitigation: The application process will ensure that only eligible activity is supported. All work will be checked before payments are made.

14. Accountable Officers

Simeon Leach, Service Manager Economic Strategy
Claire Green, Business Investment Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	Click here to enter a date.
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	Click here to enter a date.
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	Click here to enter a date.

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