



Commercial Improvement Grant Guidance Notes

Before completing an application form, applicants are advised to read these Guidance Notes and then get in touch at towncentres@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk to discuss your project idea.

What is the Shared Prosperity Fund?

The UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) supports the government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK and provides funding for local investment between 2022 and 2025. The primary aim of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK.

The Commercial Improvement Grant is funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Commercial Improvement Grant

The Commercial Improvement Grant will provide support for the improvements and maintenance works to enhance the front elevation of commercial and retail properties in the Vale of Glamorgan and improve the quality of the internal trading area including accessibility.

The improvements will be expected to contribute to a positive impact on the street scene, creating a more attractive, vibrant and safer environment which will increase retail activity, boost footfall and stimulate further private sector investment.

All size grants will be offered at 70% grant funding, 30% match funding for projects.

How do I apply?

Applicants must complete an application form via our website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/commercialimprovementfund.

Additional information will normally be required in support of your application. These may include evidence of any consents, permissions or licences needed to allow you to carry out your project and financial quotations. Incomplete applications or applications submitted without the correct supporting documentation may not be considered. All applications must be submitted electronically, hard copies will not be permitted.

When can I apply?

You can submit an application anytime.

Who can apply?

Businesses and owners of commercial and retail properties through the Vale of Glamorgan.

NB: All applicants will be subject to a due diligence assessment to determine their suitability as an applicant. This may include credit checks among others and will be carried out before an application is put forward to panel.

Subsidy Control

The Vale Business Development Fund is awarded under UK Subsidy Rules. All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as per UK Government guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/subsidy-control-regime>

Where applicants do not adequately demonstrate that the proposed project is compliant under the UK Subsidy Control Regime it may be considered ineligible, and your application could be rejected.

How much can I apply for?

You can apply for a maximum grant of £2,000.

If you need to erect scaffold or hire a skip to undertake the work, the grant scheme can make an additional contribution towards these specific costs. This will also be a maximum of a 70% contribution (up to a maximum additional grant of £300).

How long is the funding for?

All funding must be spent by March 2025.

Only one application will be accepted per business.

What can the funding be used for?

- Painting of the front elevation (the colour scheme must be agreed in advance with the Council)
- Repair, repointing and cleaning of stonework or render
- Repairs to glazing, doors and shopfronts
- Repair or reinstatement of rainwater goods
- Repairs to original features
- Repair or installation of signage (non-illuminated)
- Powder coating of existing roller shutter doors
- Small scale shop modifications (internal)
- Improved accessibility (external and internal)

If there will be any visual or material change to how the front elevation will look e.g. from wood windows/doors to UPVC or change in colour scheme you are advised to seek advice and possible consent prior to submitting your application.

What can't the funding be used for?

- Works already being carried out
- Fees for statutory consents, e.g., planning

Determining project costs

All projects will be required to provide 30% of their total project cost in cash match funding. All project costs should be accurate and based on fact. Valid quotations must be submitted to support the work you propose. Quotations must be from reputable and recognised contractors and should be detailed and itemised in terms of measurement, specification, quantity and cost.

Projects that are awarded funding cannot return and ask for additional funds because their project was not properly costed. Therefore, projects should be costed based on the recent acquisition of quotes, or recent experience. Projects will be required to provide evidence of quotes before grants will be paid, and we strongly advise that this is undertaken prior to application submission.

How will the grant be paid?

The grant will be paid in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the funding letter. The grant will usually be **paid retrospectively** and subject to all evidence of expenditure being submitted to the Council. For businesses that would find this prohibitive to delivering their project, please speak to a member of the team before submitting your application.

Appeals

There is no appeals process for the grant.