Leicester Shop Improvement Grant Scheme
2017 – 2019

Walkers Pies after

Saffron Lane Area
Wharf Street North
Heyford Road
Barley Croft Centre
Vacant Shops

King Richard’s Road
Aylestone Village
St Stephen’s Road
Church Gate
Leicester Market Area
What is the Leicester Shop Improvement Scheme?

Shop fronts contribute to people’s impression of a shopping area and can make it feel welcoming. They have an impact on appearance, contribute towards a sense of community identity and encourage a greater number of shopping visits.

The Leicester Shop Improvement Scheme is a £615,000 three-year regeneration programme that aims to support the growth of local businesses, improve the local environment and enhance the shopping experience for residents and visitors.

The scheme has prioritised eight local neighbourhood shopping areas and key independent shopping streets, which are linked to regeneration projects and represent the many types of shopping areas from a small parade with a few commercial shops to a large street with 50 plus shops.

The scheme offers grants to shop owners to help pay for improvements to the external appearance of their premises, or bring vacant units that have been empty for 12 months back into use.

Grants will be awarded to a maximum of £5,000, which is to be match-funded by the applicant.

Examples of some of the projects funded under a previous shop improvement scheme can be found on this leaflet.

For details about who can apply for a grant, please go to the back page of this leaflet.
What type of work will be funded?

Funding will be allocated to eligible projects based on an application and assessment procedure. Eligible works include:

- New shop fronts
- Repair and reinstatement of all or any part of a shop front fixture that is visible from the street, including the first and second floors of premises where they are used for commercial activities
- Repainting of shop fronts in suitable colours
- Signage
- External lighting (subject to planning permission)
- Internal security grilles and/or security glazing (subject to planning permission).

Grants will pay for up to 50% of the eligible project cost. Applications cannot be made retrospectively, so works should not commence on-site before a grant offer is accepted.

The type of works that would not normally be funded include:

- Lighting within window displays
- Professional fees associated with the development and delivery of the project, including planning application fees, consultancy fees and advisory services
- Window display equipment
- Pedestrian access improvements
- Repointing
- Repair and cleaning of external stonework and brickwork
- Repair and reinstatement of guttering and down-pipes
- Externally mounted security features.
Who can apply?

The scheme is available to independent retail businesses located in:

- Saffron Lane area 
  (please contact us for details of location)
- Wharf Street North
- Heyford Road
- Barley Croft Centre
- King Richard’s Road
- Aylestone Village
- St Stephen’s Road
- City Centre - Church Gate and Leicester Market area

Shop owners outside these areas can still apply if:

- The work would have a very significant impact on a shopping area, helping to deliver the council’s regeneration priorities
- The retail property has been empty for more than 12 months

Express an interest

Notes to help guide you through the application process and show how you can make a grant application are available on our website.

Alternatively contact:

**Economic Regeneration Team**
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester LE1 1FZ
Tel: 0116 454 2947
or 0116 454 2949

enterprisingleicester@leicester.gov.uk
leicester.gov.uk/shopfrontgrant
@Leicester_News
@Leicestercitycouncil