

Council Member
Councillor Hyde

Public

Contact Officer:
Clare Mockler, Chief Executive
Officer

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Hyde will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

'That Council:

1. Notes the enthusiastic uptake of the Shopfront Improvement Grants by city businesses and property owners.
2. Reviews the success of the grant programme and presents a report to council by the end of July 2022.
3. Expresses its intent to deliver a second round of Shopfront Improvement Grants for city businesses, the details of which are to be informed by the above review.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. Council allocated \$700k for a Shopfront Improvement Grant program as part of its Reignite Adelaide 2.0 decision on 21 January 2022. There being no specific criteria set for this grant program by Council, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) considered and subsequently approved a proposal to allocate \$500k of this amount to fund improvements consistent with the previous Mainstreets and Laneways Revitalisation and Improvement Grants and \$200k for a Vacant Tenancy Revitalisation program to attract prospective tenants and to bring vibrancy to our retail areas.
2. The process for the Shopfront Improvement Grant was competitive with 188 eligible applications received seeking approximately \$1.6 million of Council funding. Given the demand for funding, a further \$100k from an underutilised Reignite Adelaide initiative was identified and included into the grant pool. The applications were independently assessed by a panel of three staff from across relevant Council areas. Following assessment:
 - 2.1. 57 projects were fully funded (i.e. the full amount requested by the applicant) with \$414,772 provided to these applicants.
 - 2.2. 35 projects were part funded – a total of \$179,300 was provided to these applicants. These projects requested a total contribution from Council of \$333,758. Applicants were asked during the application process whether they would be prepared to accept part funding.
 - 2.3. 96 projects did not receive any funding. These projects requested a total contribution from Council of \$838,317. The panel noted only a small proportion of these applications, estimated at 20% (either full fund or part), may be eligible for future funding rounds based on meeting the criteria and value for ratepayers' money.

3. During 2021 and 2022 Council funded similar types of improvements through the Mainstreets and Laneways Revitalisation and Improvement Grants program with support from the State Government.
4. A total of 172 applications were received for the two rounds that have been offered to date. Council initially allocated \$400k for these two rounds, however on 12 April 2022 Council approved the re-allocation of \$250,000 of Reignite Adelaide 2.0 Streetside Activation Grant funding to the Mainstreet and Laneways program due to the oversubscribed funding round. This brought the total funding pool to \$650,000 which was allocated across 78 projects, of which 61 received the full amount they requested and 17 receiving partial funding.
5. On 8 June 2022 another \$200,000 round of Mainstreets and Laneways Revitalisation and Improvement Grants opened for applications, funded by the City of Adelaide and State Government. Applications close 4 July 2022 for projects to be completed by March 2023. Approximately 33 of the projects that did not receive funding through the Shopfront Improvement Grant program are located in areas eligible for this current round of Mainstreets and Laneways Revitalisation and Improvement Grants, should they choose to apply.
6. Council also provided Outdoor Activation Grants in 2020 to enable small businesses to better utilise and enhance the outdoor areas adjacent to their business through medium-to-long-term street level improvements.
7. If the information provided in this response is not sufficient in terms of satisfying the request for a review of the program, should the motion be adopted a report will be prepared for the July 2022 meeting of Council.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Not applicable
External consultant advice	Not applicable
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Not applicable
Budget reallocation	Not applicable
Capital investment	Not applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	7.5 hours
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 4.5 hours.

- END OF REPORT -