



Bentham is one of four North Yorkshire towns identified to work on a Business Boost Programme; this is a pilot scheme funded through the North Yorkshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The programme is designed to have lasting impact within a town centre, bringing businesses closer together and developing (or further enhancing) collaboration and networks that will continue long after the funding ceases. We hope collaborations and ideas tested through this programme will offer the towns a strong starting point for any future funding available for similar activity. The shop front improvement grant is one of several initiatives Bentham has put forward to be included in their current development.

### **Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme**

#### **What is the purpose of this scheme?**

A shop front improvement grant is designed to support local businesses by providing financial assistance to enhance the appearance of their shop fronts. The main purposes of these schemes include:

- Enhancing visual appeal
- Supporting local businesses
- Encouraging increased footfall
- Town centre regeneration
- Economic growth

#### **What are the eligible works?**

As this is a capital grant, items such as painting, lighting, doors and windows will be covered. Any items for marketing purposes or vinyls will not be covered.

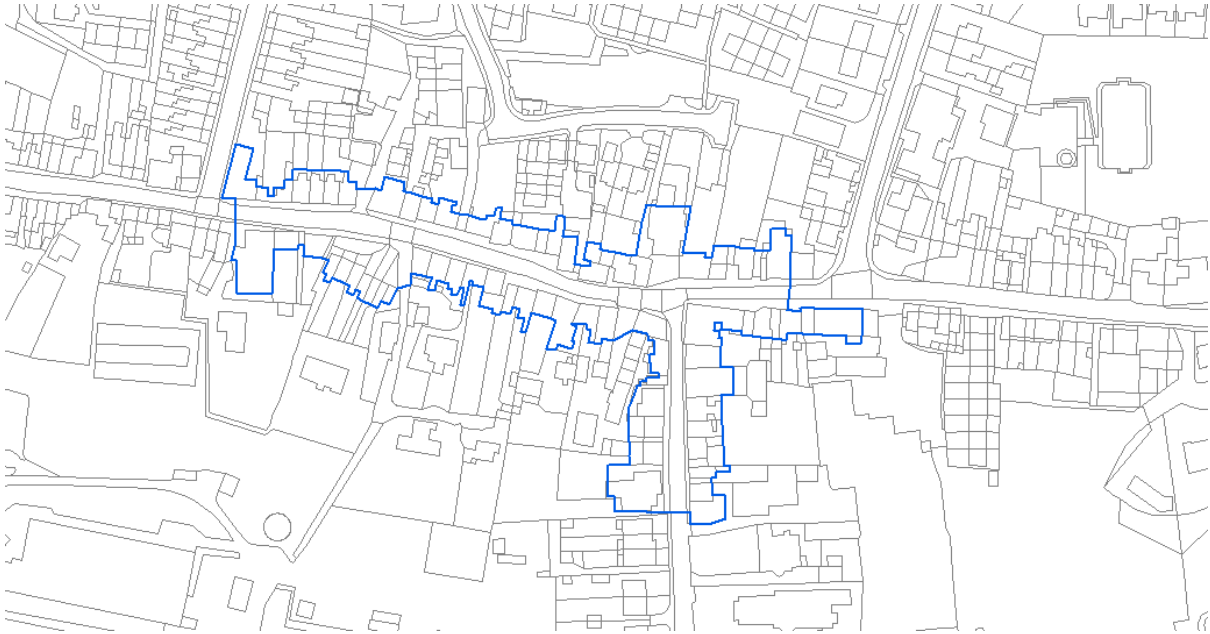
The use of local tradesmen/contractors is preferred.

#### **Terms and Conditions**

Please read before completing the grant application form.

#### **Who can apply?**

Business owners/operators of any independent or local retailer (including localised franchises) within the Bentham Town Centre area.



Operators or tenants must submit proof of owner's consent before commencing works.

**How do I apply?**

Please email your application form with supporting documents to [townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk). For further information please visit the Bentham Town Council website [www.benthamtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.benthamtowncouncil.co.uk). Applications must be received and approved prior to the commencement of works.

**Do I need to ask the owner if I don't own the property?**

Yes. Permission must be sought from the owner and submitted with the application form.

**Do I need planning permission?**

It is the responsibility of each applicant to check if planning permission is required. Please contact North Yorkshire Council Planning on 0300 131 2131 or via [planning.cra@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:planning.cra@northyorks.gov.uk). Please include the full address of the subject property and include written details of the work being proposed. Please include 'NYC Bentham Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme' in your email.

**What costs will the grant cover?**

The grant will only be paid for works approved in the 'Letter of Approval' issued by the Bentham Town Council Clerk on behalf of North Yorkshire Council. The grant will not be increased if additional work is undertaken outside of the original grant approved. Any material changes approved in the 'Letter of Approval' must be advised in advance. The grant in any case shall not exceed 50% of the overall approved cost and is subject to the maximum grant of £750 per premises. For example, to receive the maximum grant of £750, the total project cost would be £1,500. Funding will not cover VAT where this can be recovered by the business.

**When do I get paid?**

The grant will be payable after completion of the works and receipt of invoice from your contractor. All parties must be satisfied that all terms and conditions have been complied

with. The grant will be paid to you not your contractor. Please submit the claim form with invoice/receipt to [townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk).

**Are there other financial terms to comply with before I get paid?**

Costs must be verified by the submission of receipts/ invoices prior to the payment of the grant. The businesses must not be a debtor to the Council.

**What happens if the fund is oversubscribed?**

In the event of the number of applications exceeding the value of the overall fund, preference will be given to the applications that in the Project Group's view will most improve the visual appearance of the Bentham Town Centre area.

**How long do I have to complete the works?**

All works must be complete and claimed for prior to 31 March 2025.

**When do the applications close?**

Applications will close on Friday, 11 October, 2024 at 5pm.

**How will I know if my application has been successful?**

A letter of approval will be sent to you.

**Assessment**

Applications will be assessed by the Bentham Business Boost Project Group with consideration being given to proposed design, materials and overall visual impact.

**Marketing and Promotions**

The Bentham Business Boost Project Group, NYC and the Y&NY Combined Authority reserve the right to publish photographs and details of chosen schemes before, during and after the improvements in promotional activities associated with the scheme and its purpose. We would be grateful for the supply of before and after photographs. **Should the business themselves wish to promote the new works, please follow the branding guidance.**



**Bentham  
Town Council**



**NORTH  
YORKSHIRE  
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