

Vibrant Wiltshire vacant unit grants Briefing Note No. 23 - 38

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New Vibrant Wiltshire grants will enable businesses to fill empty town centre units

The Vibrant Wiltshire grant programme will launch in January to support local small businesses to bring vacant ground floor commercial town centre units back into use.

Through the Wiltshire Towns Programme, Wiltshire Council has created this grant programme to improve the vibrancy of our town centres and high streets.

The programme, which offers grants from £1,000 to a maximum of £10,000, opens in early 2024 and will be available for business opening premises in targeted town centre areas.

The grants aim to support businesses to relocate or open premises in eligible town centres using empty commercial units, to bring them back into a permanent or temporary use. All grant recipients must show that they are helping to strengthen and diversify Wiltshire town centres areas by opening up premises for new commercial activity, in turn boosting footfall, creating new jobs, and enhancing the sustainability of businesses.

The types of businesses eligible may be those providing services, and/or creative, cultural and community uses into the town centres that are within the scope of the Wiltshire Towns Programme, which are: Amesbury, Bradford on Avon, Calne, Chippenham, Corsham, Cricklade, Devizes, Downton, Ludgershall, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Melksham, Mere, Pewsey, Royal Wootton Bassett, Salisbury, Tidworth, Tisbury, Trowbridge, Warminster, Westbury and Wilton.

Applications can be made by business owners or directors of registered independent businesses, charities or social enterprises, or sole traders or self-employed individuals, who are bringing a new business to a town centre or relocating a current business within a town centre. A signed lease for the premises is required.

Following the grant award, the Economy and Regeneration Service will work with successful applicants to monitor how the grant has been spent and offer further support to their businesses for up to three years from the date of their grant offer letter.

The grants open in January 2024 and there will be a communications campaign to encourage eligible businesses to apply.

In the meantime, you can find out more at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/vibrant-wiltshire-grants or email vibrant.wiltshire@wiltshire.gov.uk.