



GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS 2018 OBAN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME

BID 4 Oban Ltd was established on 31 October 2012 to deliver a five-year Business Plan based on the priorities of the Oban business community identified through consultation. One of the BID's objectives is to:

“Make the best first impression possible to visitors and shoppers to the town by helping provide a more attractive environment”.

The Business Improvement Grant Scheme is one of several projects designed to deliver this objective and offers grant funding **up to £1500 including VAT** to any existing commercial business operating in the town which wishes to improve the appearance of its business frontage.

There is an annual budget available for the Scheme. Applications are treated on a first come first served basis.

Criteria

You can apply if your business:

- Is located within the 30-mph speed limit of the town, the Oban BID boundary
- Is paying the BID Levy or an Associate Membership fee.
- Has been in existence for or trading under the same name for 1 or more years.
- Has no arrears on their BID account.

You can apply for a grant for:

- *Improvements* to the physical appearance of the outside of your business premises; costs such as decoration, renewed signage (fixed to the building), outside lighting, awnings, and replacement of exterior features are all eligible;
- Up to 75% of the total costs of the improvements;
- A maximum of £1,500 inc VAT towards the improvements.

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Chairman Tony Cave Company no. SC435469 VAT 152327236





You cannot apply for:

- 100% of improvement costs;
- Indoor /non-visible improvements;
- Funding for work already /being completed;

Before applying you should check:

1. That you have the owner's permission to undertake the work (we may need evidence to show this).
2. Whether you require planning permission for the proposed work:
 - Planning Permission is required for any alteration that 'materially affects the external appearance of a building, including canopies/awnings and external security features (and painting within Conservation Areas).'
 - Listed Building Consent may also be required in Conservation areas, or for original 19th or 20th Century shop frontages.
 - Many proposed signs require advertisement consent.

Guidance is provided at <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/planning-permission>.

Please contact the Planning Team at Argyll and Bute Council for further advice:

Email: planning.olandi@argyll-bute.gov.uk; 01546 605518

ASSESSING YOUR APPLICATION

Your application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Evidence of Need (current condition of property)
- Standard of work and design
- Visual impact

We will provide you with a decision as soon as possible. If your application is successful the grant awarded will generally be based on the lowest tender, however we will work with the applicant to meet their needs. Payment of the grant will be made on completion of the work on submission of invoice to BID. Works must be carried out within 3 months of grant award. Please note that any planning requirements and permissions must be sought prior to the grant being awarded and the works being carried out. This is the responsibility of the applicant and not BID4OBAN Ltd. If you have any difficulty completing the form, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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