

# Market Towns Facelift

## Frequently Asked Questions

***Can I apply for a Facelift grant for a residential or community property?***

No. Facelift grants are only available for commercial properties.

***I am a tenant and do not own the property, can I apply for a Facelift grant?***

Yes, however, you will need to provide written consent for all proposed works from the owner of the property.

***Can I apply for a Facelift grant for work that has already been completed?***

No. Grants are not awarded retrospectively.

***What type of works may be eligible for grant assistance?***

External works to the property frontage, such as replacement windows/doors, new signage, painting, improvements to rain-water infrastructure and the installation of security equipment are eligible for grant assistance. Grant assistance is not available for internal works.

***Will I need planning permission?***

Planning permission may be required if changes are not like-for-like. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain all relevant permissions that may be required for all proposed works.

***Are VAT costs eligible for assistance under the Facelift scheme?***

No. The level of grant is calculated as a percentage of costs exclusive of VAT.

***Can I undertake any of the work myself?***

Yes, however, grant monies will only be made available to help cover the cost of materials in this instance. Grant monies are not available for personal labour costs.

***What is the definition of a 'bona-fide' contractor?***

The term 'bona-fide' has been included here to highlight that any contractors approached for quotes cannot be related to the tenant or the owner of the property. Any contractor approached must have the skills, expertise and experience necessary to complete all works to a suitably high-standard. A final inspection by Allerdale Borough Council will serve to confirm that all works undertaken were as proposed and were completed to a high-standard.

***Can I use a different contractor to the one specified by Allerdale Borough Council following the submission of the original quotes?***

Yes, however, if this contractor is more expensive than the contractor specified by Allerdale Borough Council, then the original grant offer will not be increased. Alternatively, if a cheaper contractor is chosen to complete the works, then the grant offer will be proportionally reduced in line with the new costs involved.

***What happens if the final cost of the work is different from the original estimate?***

If the final cost of the work is greater than the original estimate (for example, some contractors will not include the cost of scaffolding in an initial quote), then the original grant offer will not be increased. Alternatively, if the final cost of the works is less than the original estimate, then the grant offer will be proportionally reduced in line with the new costs involved.