

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GEARING UP FOR GROWTH GRANTS PANEL
HELD ON 4TH JULY, 2017
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Iqbal – Chairman (In the Chair)

Panel Members

Councillor D. Whipp

Julie Whittaker

Kevin Clark

Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager (PBC)

Enterprise Lancashire

Officers in attendance

Hassan Ditta

Judith Stockton

Lynne Rowland

Employer Engagement Officer (PBC)

Senior Regeneration Officer (PBC)

Committee Administrator (PBC)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Arshad)

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1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests. Other members of the Panel were also asked to declare any interest as appropriate.

The following person declared a pecuniary interest in the item indicated –

Kevin Clark

Business Support Programme

Minute No. 7

2. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of this Panel, at a meeting held on 19th April, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. APPLICATIONS FOR START-UP GRANTS

The Panel was provided with a project summary and an overview of the business with regard to the following applications for start-up grants. In reaching their decision, the members of the Panel considered the business plan and received information on what the requested grant was to be spent on.

(a) Bobbi Sethi – Europa Bar Ltd

Bobbi Sethi planned to open a community pub in Nelson with an emphasis on Eastern European

tastes. Europa would be a bar/club that would host events; provide room hire for functions; and serve as a hub for gatherings of the community. It would host a large range of European alcohol and serve home cooked traditional pub food.

The requested grant was for the purchase of equipment.

The project would create five full time jobs over the next two years.

Enterprise Lancashire had approved the business plan and cash flow.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £2,000 be awarded to Bobbi Sethi in support of Europa Bar Ltd.

REASON

The business will contribute to the Council's priorities of creating jobs and sustaining strong economic growth. It will also bring an empty property back into use.

(b) Tracy Edmondson – Piece of Cake

Tracy Edmondson was in the process of setting up a café/tea room which would sell celebration cakes and other baked items. She would also run sugarcraft classes two days a week when the café/tea room was closed and allow the shop to be hired out for other classes and tea parties.

The requested grant was for the purchase of equipment. An element would also cover the cost of installing a separate electricity supply to the shop. The works in this particular case were eligible under the scheme as it would help bring a vacant town centre premises back into use.

The project would create one part time and two full time posts.

Enterprise Lancashire had approved the business plan and cash flow.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £2,000 be awarded to Tracy Edmondson in support of Piece of Cake.

REASON

The business will contribute to the Council's priorities of creating jobs and sustaining strong economic growth.

4. GRANTS FOR GROWTH

The Panel was provided with a project summary, including information on the background of the company with regard to the following applications –

(a) Bright Engineering (Precision Products) Ltd

Bright Engineering Ltd was a precision engineering company that made components for the aerospace, power generation and the defence sector. The business had been trading in its current

format since October, 2016.

The business sought to invest in a CAD/CAM system, a new robust server solution and additional computer workstations to support the CAD/CAM system. This would enable growth by allowing more intrinsic designs to greater accuracy. The new server would also allow remote working.

As a direct result of this project, the business expected to create six new full time jobs. This included three skilled jobs, a new managerial role and two unskilled posts.

AGREED

That a grant of £6,156 be awarded to Bright Engineering (Precision Products) Ltd.

REASON

The project will contribute to the Council's priorities of creating jobs and sustaining strong economic growth.

(b) Howorths Textiles Ltd

Howorths Textiles was primarily a yarn merchant that imported materials from all over the world. The business also provided warpers, sizers, tapers and winders and provided services to the weaving and knitting industry in the UK. The business was initially incorporated in 1924.

The project was to purchase a preowned wide width sectional warping machine. The extra width provided by the machine would enable them to target new business and provide a one stop shop to undertake any weavers or knitters warping requirements.

As a direct result of this project, the business expected to create two new full time jobs which consisted of one semi-skilled post and one unskilled post.

AGREED

That a grant of £6,000 be awarded to Howorths Textiles Ltd.

REASON

The project will contribute to the Council's priorities of creating jobs and sustaining strong economic growth.

(c) Northern Relish Ltd

Northern Relish was a café/bistro, established in 2012, that sold hot food and drink from their site on Lomeshaye Industrial Estate.

To improve the existing business they hoped to obtain a license to sell alcohol and had plans to utilise an online ordering system.

The project was to invest in a commercial kitchen and licensed bar and increase the bistro seating from 30 to 50 places.

The requested grant was for premises improvement works and the purchase of equipment.

As a direct result of this project, the business expected to create four full time jobs.

AGREED

That this application for a growth grant be refused.

REASON

It would not represent a sound investment.

(d) Sugden Ltd

Sugden Ltd was established in 1972 and manufactured hotplate equipment. The business also designed and manufactured systems including conveyor systems, oil spray systems, depositors, biscuit moulders and bespoke handling systems.

As a result of increased turnover, the business had outgrown its existing site. They had secured two small units on Lomeshaye Industrial Estate with the aim of converting them into one large unit.

The project would create five and safeguard four full time jobs.

AGREED

That a grant of £10,000 be awarded to Sugden Ltd.

REASON

The project will bring two vacant units back into use and will contribute to the Council's priorities of creating jobs and sustaining strong economic growth.

5. BROWNFIELD SITES GRANT FUND

(a) Applications for consideration

The Panel was provided with a brief project description and a summary of the assessment against agreed criteria with regard to the following application –

Former Reedyford Mill site, Nelson

The former Reedyford Mill site had been cleared and vacant for a number of years. The applicant had an option to purchase the site with a view to redeveloping the site for employment use. The proposed scheme involved the development of 14 new industrial units of varying sizes.

All but three of the agreed criteria had been met, however evidence of these would be provided at the appropriate time.

The application was considered under 'de Minimus' State Aid Rules relating to the level of public funding a private business could receive within a given period of time.

AGREED

- (1) That grant funding up to a maximum of 200,000 euros (approx. £176,000) be awarded, subject to confirmation of the level of public funding already received by the applicant and compliance with State Aid Rules.
- (2) That any clawback on completion of the scheme be shared on a 50/50 basis.

REASON

- (1) ***To enable the applicant to proceed with the development.***
- (2) ***Due to the relatively low level of profit on the scheme.***

6. COLNE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted an update on progress made with developing a Business Improvement District (BID) for Colne.

Draft terms of reference for a Colne BID Steering Group and a timetable for the implementation of the BID were attached for consideration.

AGREED

- (1) That all businesses who have expressed an interest be invited to join the Steering Group.
- (2) That Colne Town Council be asked to nominate a Councillor to be on the Steering Group.
- (3) That Executive members Councillors M. Iqbal and D. Clegg be nominated to represent Pendle Borough Council.
- (4) That the draft terms of reference be agreed.
- (5) That the timetable for the implementation of the Colne BID be noted.

REASON

To allow the development of the proposed Colne BID to continue.

7. BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

(Kevin Clark declared a pecuniary interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting.)

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted an update on developments for a programme of additional business support to be delivered by Enterprise Lancashire, working jointly with Burnley Council.

A costed programme, which provided an overview of what each session would cover, was provided as an appendix to the report.

The workshops would be jointly marketed by Pendle Council and Burnley Council and would be held alternatively in each borough, week commencing 9th October, 2017.

The Panel was also advised of a proposal by Role, a Pendle based business, to run some workshops which targeted women business leaders to develop their skillset and their business further. The organisation delivered the programme as part of Boost business support.

The Panel was asked to consider a budget allocation to fund the support programmes.

AGREED

- (1) That the Panel agree to contribute £1,725 to fund additional start-up business support from Enterprise Lancashire, working jointly with Burnley Council.
- (2) That no funding be allocated for the workshops to be delivered by Role.

REASON

- (1) ***To help develop local skills, improve the quality of start-up applications and increase the start-up survival rate.***
- (2) ***Due to lack of evidence of previous experience in delivering such workshops.***

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

CHAIRMAN _____