

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GEARING UP FOR GROWTH GRANTS PANEL
HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER, 2014
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Panel Members

*Councillor J. Cooney
Councillor D. Whipp
Councillor P. White
Kevin Clark
Julie Whittaker*

*Enterprise Lancashire
Economic and Housing Regeneration Manager, PBC*

Also in attendance

*Imtiaz Shah
Hassan Ditta
Hanna Latty
Lynne Rowland*

*Employer Engagement Officer (PBC)
Growth Graduate (PBC)
Business Development Officer (PBC)
Committee Administrator*

(Apologies for absence were received from Dean Langton.)



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 persons declared an interest in the item indicated –

Julie Whittaker	Applications for Grants for Growth – DP Structures Ltd	Minute No. 4(d)
Imtiaz Shah		
Hassan Ditta		
Hanna Latty		

1(a) MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of this Panel, at a meeting held on 15th September, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. 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 plans for each business and received information on what the requested grant was to be spent on.

(a) Nazeem Hayat – CardSmart Ltd

CardSmart Ltd was a new company specialising in card payment processing within the retail industry.

AGREED

That the application for a start-up grant be refused.

REASON

The business appears unsustainable and there is no evidence to demonstrate how this proposal will differentiate from others.

(b) Liam Mulready – Safe Electrical Contractors

Liam Mulready had been working as an electrician within the electrical industry for over 8 years and now believed there was a good opportunity for him to set up as a sole-trader.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £1,802 be awarded to Liam Mulready in support of Safe Electrical Contractors.

REASON

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

(c) Diane Park – Wave of Nostalgia

Wave of Nostalgia was a business based on the concept of 'Vintage Inspired/Inspired Vintage' over the following product areas –

- Genuine vintage items of collectables and gifts from the 1920s to 1970s.
- New, but based on or inspired by the above eras.
- Made to measure clothes from original 40s, 50s and 60s patterns.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £500 be awarded to Diane Park in support of Wave of Nostalgia.

REASON

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

(d) Andrew Pickard – Aspire Personal Training

Mr Pickard's business idea was to open and run his own personal training environment to which his current and potential new clients could have exclusive access to a tailored training environment

and equipment. This application had been deferred at the last meeting of the Panel to allow for further information. This information was provided in a report to the Panel.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £2,000 be awarded to Andrew Pickard in support of Aspire Personal Training.

REASON

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

(e) Richard Milner – Barnoldswick Lounge Ltd T.A. Lounge Bar

Barnoldswick Lounge Ltd would be trading as 'Lounge Bar', a licensed sports bar situated in Barnoldswick town centre.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £1,960 be awarded to Richard Milner in support of Barnoldswick Lounge Ltd, trading as Lounge Bar.

REASON

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

(f) Russell M. Tebbutt – The Crystal Lounge – Vintage Cocktail Bar

Russell Tebbutt planned to set up a mobile vintage cocktail bar. He had passed the relevant exams required to be a license holder and had applied for a Personal Alcohol License. Test trading had been carried out at the Rhythm and Blues Festival earlier this year. He had also booked pitches at Grassington Dickensian Festival and Skipton Yuletide Festival later on this year.

AGREED

That a decision on this application be deferred to the January meeting of the Panel.

REASON

To allow the applicant to carry out further test trading.

(g) Krystina Kerkine-Keramida (Beauty by Krystina)

Krystina Kerkine-Keramida had opened a salon which offered skincare treatments and advice, nail care services, temporary hair removal treatments, tanning, eye treatments and a range of massage services.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £2,000 be awarded to Krystina Kerkine-Keramida in support of Beauty by Kristina.

REASON

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

The Panel also received an update on 360 Degree Care whose application for a start-up grant had been supported at the last meeting. It was reported that 360 Degree Care had now hired and trained 15 people and were currently in the process of recruiting a further 15.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR 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) Loft Leg Ltd

Loft Leg Ltd had been established in May 2012 and specialised in providing loft storage solutions without affecting the performance of any loft insulation installed. Initially the company had designed and manufactured 'Loft Leg' and had since expanded its product range to include 'Loft Ledge'. They had also developed their 'Loft Lamp' product which was now ready for production.

The project would create one new unskilled job and would also safeguard three full time jobs and one part time job.

AGREED

That a grant of £2,985 be awarded to Loft Leg Ltd.

REASON

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

(b) Pendle Care and Support Services

Pendle Care and Support Services was a domiciliary care agency which supported people in their own homes, primarily disabled people who had associated physical disabilities. They also supported vulnerable individuals who may have health issues or substance misuse problems. The business was registered with the Care Quality Commission.

The project would create 16.5 full time equivalent skilled jobs, bring one building back into use and improve 500m² of floor space.

The Panel was advised of a retrospective application for the installation of the phone system at a cost of over £2,000. The applicant had explained the mitigating circumstances under which this money had been spent.

AGREED

- (1) That a grant of £6,512 for the non-retrospective spend be awarded to Pendle Care and Support Services.
- (2) That the retrospective application for the installation of the phone system be refused.

REASON

- (1) ***The project will result in multiple outputs being met including job creation, safeguarding, buildings brought back into use and floor space improved.***
- (2) ***In line with the Grants for Growth criteria.***

(c) Trevon Industrial Finishers Ltd

Trevon Industrial Finishers Ltd was a powder coating and wet paint applicators company based in Colne. As part of their expansion plans, Trevon Industrial Finishers Ltd needed to purchase new equipment which would automate one element of the powder coating process. The demand for this piece of equipment had arisen on the back of a contract with a telecoms company. This piece of equipment would also allow the company to take on more work in the future with companies who they could not currently target due to lack of infrastructure.

The project would create 1.5 new semi-skilled jobs and one clerical post. It would also safeguard four full time jobs.

AGREED

That a grant of £7,000 be awarded to Trevon Industrial Finishers Ltd.

REASON

- (1) ***The Company is dealing with high profile contracts which may promote the area when seeking further business.***
- (2) ***The project contributes to the Council's priorities of creating jobs and sustaining strong economic growth.***

(d) DP Structures Ltd

(Julie Whittaker, Imtiaz Shah, Hassan Ditta and Hanna Latty declared an interest in this matter as the Company Secretary, Julie Palmer worked for Housing and Regeneration Services at Pendle Council, although was not a formal part of the process. As a member of the Panel, Julie Whittaker abstained from voting.)

DP Structures Ltd designed, fabricated and constructed bespoke steel structures and canopies providing a full service from conceptual/technical designs through to the manufacture and construction on site.

The business was currently situated on Barden Lane, Burnley and had been served notice to quit as the owner planned to demolish the mill. They had found new premises and were in the process of purchasing two units in Nelson. The project involved making the new units fit for purpose. It would not create any new positions, however it would safeguard seven full time jobs, bringing jobs

into the borough; bring two buildings back into use and improve 770m² of floor space whilst creating an additional 120m² of floor space.

DP Structures had also applied for the Inward Investment Scheme, which allowed business rates relief of £10,000 if approved.

AGREED

- (1) That a grant of £9,000 be awarded to DP Structures Ltd.
- (2) That consideration of the application for the Inward Investment Scheme be deferred to the next meeting of the Panel.

REASON

The project will result in multiple outputs being met including increase in business performance; buildings brought back into use; floor space increased and improved and job safeguarding, therefore contributes to the Council's priorities.

5. GRADUATE PROGRAMME

The Economic and Housing Regeneration Manager submitted a report which updated the Panel on delivery of the Graduate Programme to date. It was anticipated that the majority of requests for graduate placements would be presented to the Panel. However, authorisation was sought for Officers to seek a decision from the members of the Panel via email, if a company wished to place a graduate before a scheduled Panel meeting.

AGREED

That the Panel agrees to the approval process whereby the majority of requests for graduate placements be presented to the Panel, but authority be granted for Officers to seek a decision from the members of the Panel via email if a company wished to place a graduate before a scheduled Panel meeting.

REASON

To facilitate the smooth running of the Graduate Programme.

6. SUPPORTING INWARD INVESTMENT IN PENDLE

The Economic and Housing Regeneration Manager submitted an update on the Inward Investment Programme which aimed to encourage companies to move into the Borough, especially into the key employment areas. The Executive had agreed to allocate £300,000 from the Business Growth Incentive Reserve to deliver this incentive. The report set out the framework for an approach in Pendle. The focus of the activity was the nine protected employment areas as identified in the Pendle Employment Land Review 2013, but was not limited to these areas. A list of proposed activity was detailed in the report, together with an action plan.

In line with The Localism Act 2011 the Council was to use its discretionary powers to award business rate discounts to help attract new businesses to Pendle that would bring new job opportunities. Details of the Business Rate Relief Incentive (BRR) were detailed in an appendix to

the report. It was agreed that the eligibility criteria was ambiguous and required further consideration.

AGREED

That the Economic and Housing Regeneration Manager be requested to revise the eligibility criteria for the Business Rate Relief Incentive for consideration and approval at the next meeting of the Panel.

REASON

To ensure the criteria is clear and unambiguous.

7. FREE WI-FI IN TOWN CENTRES

Further to a decision at the last meeting of the Panel, investigations had been carried out in to a number of companies to deliver free W-Fi in Town Centres. It had been felt that only one company, Clannet, had sufficient experience of both installing and servicing similar schemes. The Economic and Housing Regeneration Manager submitted a report which detailed the reasons for recommending Clannet and proposed a way forward. Approval was also sought for any unused budget allocation for Wi-Fi installation to be allocated back to the Gearing up for Growth Grants budget.

AGREED

- (1) That this Panel supports the commissioning of Clannet to install free Wi-Fi in Colne and Barnoldswick Town Centres.
- (2) That the Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Central and Regeneration Services be requested to waive standing orders and commission Clannet without going out to tender.
- (3) That arrangements be made to survey the Town Councils of Colne and Barnoldswick on the proposals via the respective Council Members.

REASON

- (1) *To ensure the best Wi-Fi system is installed and maintained in our town centres.*
- (2) *Clannet is the only company found that has sufficient experience of both installing and servicing similar schemes.*
- (3) *To benefit from the local knowledge of the Town Councils.*

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

That the next meeting of the Panel be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 8th December, 2014.

CHAIRMAN _____