

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GEARING UP FOR GROWTH GRANTS PANEL
HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2016
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Iqbal – Chairman (In the Chair)

Panel Members

Councillor D. Whalley

Councillor D. Whipp

Julie Whittaker

Kevin Clark

Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager (PBC)

Enterprise Lancashire

Officers in attendance

Hanna Latty

Paul Collins

Hassan Ditta

Deborah McCarthy

Lynne Rowland

Business Development Officer (PBC)

Regeneration Officer (PBC)

Employer Engagement Officer (PBC)

Assistant Economic Development Officer (PBC)

Committee Administrator (PBC)



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.

2. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of this Panel, at a meeting held on 2nd December, 2015 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 plans for each business and received information on what the requested grant was to be spent on.

(a) Yum Yum (Asian Food Stall) – Fouzia Kiran

Fouzia Kiran planned to set up an Asian food stall within Nelson indoor market which would provide a range of Asian foods in addition to freshly squeezed juice and milkshakes. The food would be pre-cooked, purchased from a wholesaler.

The requested grant would be spent on equipment to make the market unit fit for purpose.

The project would create one full time job.

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support.

AGREED

That Fouzia Kiran be awarded a start-up grant of £488.42 in support of Yum Yum Asian Food Stall.

REASON

The project will result in the occupation of a vacant town centre premises within Nelson indoor market and, although a modest proposal, the business appears sustainable and will contribute to the Council's priorities of creating jobs and sustaining strong economic growth.

(b) Pendle Pet Transport – Margaret Atilgan

Margaret Atilgan was in the process of setting up Pendle Pet Transport, a bespoke transportation service for pets to take them to the vets and kennels. She would also offer dog walking and home checking services however, pet transport would be the primary focus.

The requested grant would be used to purchase equipment and to pay towards the cost of marketing.

The business would create one part time job, with the objective of this turning full time as the business grew.

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support.

AGREED

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

REASON

The forecast profit/turnover suggests a very small business which will not contribute to the Council's priorities of sustaining strong economic growth.

(c) Roberts & Harris Ltd T/A ITUS Security Services

Lee Roberts and Jon Harris were in the process of setting up ITUS Security Systems, a business which would provide and install CCTV and alarm systems.

The requested grant would be used to purchase equipment and develop a website.

The two owners were already in full time employment therefore, initially, there would be no jobs created. However, it was envisaged that additional staff would be employed after 12 months.

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicants with business support.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £1,394 be awarded to Lee Roberts and Jon Harris in support of Roberts and Harris Ltd T/A ITUS Security Services.

REASON

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

(d) Jeffrey Glithero – Northern Barista Coffee Company Ltd

Jeffrey Glithero and partner were setting up Northern Barista Coffee Company Ltd located in Pendle Rise Shopping Centre, Nelson. They would initially offer three coffee blends in addition to tea and other hot drinks and would rely on customer feedback to adapt the blends offered accordingly.

The requested grant would be used to purchase a coffee machine.

The project would create two full time and eight part time jobs.

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support.

Mr Glithero had also applied for a premises improvement grant to install signage to the exterior of the unit.

AGREED

That Jeffrey Glithero be awarded a start-up grant of £2,000 in support of Northern Barista Coffee Company.

REASON

The project will bring a vacant town centre premises back into use. It will also contribute to the Council's priorities of creating jobs and sustaining strong economic growth.

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) Matthew Kibble Transport Ltd

Matthew Kibble Transport (MKT) had been established in 1999 as a transport business which offered general haulage services. This had since grown to include storage, both long and short term, as well as offering warehousing space in Colne.

In the previous 12 months they had acquired and invested in a further unit in Colne to trade out of. Due to the increasing size and needs of the business the IT infrastructure required updating. The current system was slow, unreliable and was not able to carry out the increasingly complex demands placed on it as a result of the rapid growth experienced over the previous two years.

The requested grant was for the purchase of a server including licenses, backup licenses, installation and management.

Although the number of projected jobs to be created was zero, it was accepted that the company would most likely create a number of jobs as a result of business growth as in previous years. Fifty nine jobs would be safeguarded.

AGREED

That a grant of £5,610 be awarded to Matthew Kibble Transport Ltd.

REASON

The project will result in the safeguarding of jobs and contributes to the Council's priorities of sustaining strong economic growth.

(b) Stanley House Veterinary Group

Stanley House Veterinary Group had been established in Colne in 1921 and had four surgeries, three of which were in Pendle.

The business planned to achieve a number of accreditations over the next couple of years, which included gaining hospital status for the Colne headquarters surgery, and would lead to securing additional customers and growth in the future. The project would create eight new full time jobs and safeguard four full time jobs.

As the Group had outgrown its existing site, it had purchased the adjoining property to expand into. A complete overhaul of the site would be carried out.

The requested grant was for kennels and specialist equipment which would be used in the operating theatre.

AGREED

That a grant of £10,000 be awarded to Stanley House Veterinary Group.

REASON

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

(c) Lancashire Wedding House

Lancashire Wedding House had been established in May 2014 and sold wedding dresses, bridesmaid dresses, prom dresses, formal evening wear and ladies accessories from premises on Lomeshaye Industrial Estate. The company had not grown at the rate expected and it was thought that its current location was a contributory factor.

In order to kick-start the business, a lease had been secured on much larger premises in Barrowford where it was intended to incorporate a beauty salon to create a one stop shop for all occasions.

The requested grant was for electrical work, internal building work and equipment.

The project would result in five full time jobs being created over the next two years, bring one premises back into use and improve 244m² of floor space.

AGREED

That this grant application be refused.

REASON

The year one accounts indicate that the business model has failed. There is no evidence to suggest that this project will contribute to the Council's priorities of sustaining strong economic growth.

5. FOCUS ON YOUR BUSINESS – PENDLE BUSINESS MONTH 2015

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report which provided an evaluation of last year's Focus on Your Business Month. This annual event had been held for the past four years and usually took place in October. For reasons explained in the report, last year's event had been held in November and had led to a number of differences in its organisation and delivery.

Of the 157 businesses that attended, the vast majority had found the workshops beneficial and a number of businesses had expressed an interest in attending further courses.

It was acknowledged that Business Month was still a worthwhile event, but that its delivery needed to be reviewed. This would include further discussions with partners. It was agreed that it would also be beneficial to establish the training delivery plans of the Chamber of Commerce and Regenerate Pennine Lancashire following the conclusion of the Boost Lancashire gateway tender process.

Reference was also made to the Lancashire Business Support Review, a mapping exercise of business support in Lancashire, which was being carried out by Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. It was recognised that the resulting information would be useful when organising the next event.

AGREED

That future delivery of Focus on Your Business Month be reviewed.

REASON

To ensure the event delivers most effective support and value for money.

6. PENDLE BUSINESS CLASS HUB

Following the decision at the last meeting of the Panel to fund the delivery of a Pendle Business Class Hub for three years, the Business Development Officer gave an update on progress.

It was reported that positive discussions has been held with the head teachers of two local schools, situated at opposite ends of the borough and letters had been sent to a number of

businesses, to which responses were awaited. The topic had also been discussed at a recent meeting of the Vision Board where one business had indicated that it would like to get involved with the project.

7. UPDATE ON THE PENDLE BUSINESS AWARDS

The Business Development Officer provided an update on progress with arrangements for the 2016 Pendle Business Awards. It was reported that an event management company had been appointed, the categories had been determined and entries would open on Monday 15th February. The awards ceremony would take place at the Fence Gate Inn, Fence on Thursday 9th June, 2016.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- In response to a question by a Panel member, information was provided on applications for financial support received and processed in relation to businesses affected by the recent flooding.
- The Employer Engagement Officer advised the Panel of a Work Inspiration Event that was due to take place at Nelson and Colne College on 10th February, 2016. Further information would be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.
- Further to a decision at the last meeting to defer a grant application from Grassroots Wholesale Foods Limited, the Employer Engagement Officer reported that further information was still awaited.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

CHAIRMAN _____