

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GEARING UP FOR GROWTH GRANTS PANEL
HELD ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2016
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Councillor M. Iqbal – Chairman (In the Chair)

Panel Members

Councillor N. Ahmed

Councillor D. Whipp

Julie Whittaker

Kevin Clark

Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager (PBC)

Enterprise Lancashire

Officers in attendance

Hassan Ditta

Paul Collins

Judith Stockton

Ashleigh Smith

Lynne Rowland

Employer Engagement Officer (PBC)

Regeneration Officer (PBC)

Senior Regeneration Officer (PBC)

Economic Promotion Graduate (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.

The following persons declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item indicated –

Councillor M. Iqbal

Julie Whittaker

Pendle Brownfield Sites Main Fund –

application from PEARL(2) LTD

Minute No 5(b)(ii)

2. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of this Panel, at a meeting held on 7th November, 2016 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) Scott Spencer – ASD Vehicle Repair

ASD Vehicle Repair would provide a vehicle bodywork repair service, with a customer base spread across Burnley and Pendle. ASD Vehicle Repair intended to have a static base in Colne and to also offer a mobile repair service.

The requested grant was for the purchase of equipment.

Over three years the project would create two full time jobs.

Enterprise Lancashire had approved the business plan and cash flow.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £1,582.37 be awarded to Scott Spencer in support of ASD Vehicle Repair.

REASON

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

(b) Fiona Lines – Cowdance Limited

Cowdance Limited would provide individuals and businesses with short breaks that would help people unwind and connect with nature, by incorporating yoga and the outdoors. It would also aim at the corporate away day market.

Currently the weekend retreats were offered in the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District, with a view to offering corporate away days from a venue based in Pendle.

The requested grant was for the purchase of equipment and advertising.

Over the next three years Cowdance Limited planned to employ a further two full time, Pendle based, members of staff.

Enterprise Lancashire had approved the business plan and cash flow.

AGREED

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

REASON

Although the business is registered in Pendle, large portions of the business activity would take place outside of the borough and would therefore not contribute to the Council's priorities of 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) Blackoak Surfacing

Blackoak Surfacing were groundwork contractors who had experienced significant growth since their establishment in August 2015.

The company currently hired some of the equipment required to complete jobs. The funding bid was to help with the purchase of equipment.

As a result of this project, Blackoak Surfacing expected to create a new tarmacking team which would consist of four employees. An additional member of office staff would also be taken on. In addition, the company would upskill existing employees with training.

AGREED

That a grant of £4,810 be awarded to Blackoak Surfacing.

REASON

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

(b) Craven Digital

Craven Digital was a small creative agency that supported businesses in the West Craven area. They focussed on helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) extend their reach using digital technologies, professional design and informed marketing strategies. When created in 2014 the business was primarily a website design, development and hosting business. They now also offered graphic design services, printing and reprographics.

A successful trial of computer training had also resulted in the business moving into larger premises in Barnoldswick.

The company currently sub-contracted printing and it was hoped to bring this in-house. More suitable equipment was also required for the reprographics service.

The project was to purchase a professional-grade printer and IT equipment. As a result they were expecting to create 1.5 full time equivalent posts.

AGREED

That a grant of £2,572 be awarded to Craven Digital, subject to the applicant appointing a mentor.

REASON

With appropriate guidance, the project will contribute to the Council's priorities of creating jobs and sustaining strong economic growth.

(c) Integrated Aluminium Components

Integrated Aluminium Components Ltd (IAC) was a specialist manufacturer of high quality rack

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anodised aluminium components which operated in the pharmaceutical, personal care and cosmetic sectors.

The project was to purchase a new machine to allow them to diversify their order book and increase productivity.

As a result of the project, IAC expected to create four full time jobs whilst safeguarding seven full time jobs.

AGREED

That the grant application be refused.

REASON

Due to concerns over the financial stability of the business.

(d) REM (UK) Ltd

REM (UK) Ltd was established over 70 years ago and was currently a leading supplier of equipment to the salon, beauty and spa industries.

As their old CNC machine had been in constant need of repair, a new machine had been sourced.

To enable the new machine to be installed, works needed to be completed at the premises.

The Grants for Growth application was for building/structural works; electrical works and the purchase of an upgraded extraction unit to the existing premises. Other sources of funding had been sought to assist with the cost of purchasing the machine.

As a result of this project, the Grants for Growth funding was expected to contribute to the creation of four full time jobs. These would be in addition to jobs being created through other sources of funding.

AGREED

That, subject to the completed purchase of the new CNC machine, a grant of £10,000 be awarded to REM (UK) Ltd.

REASON

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

5. PENDLE BROWNFIELD SITES FUND

(a) Pendle Brownfield Sites Grant Fund

The Panel was asked to consider applications to the Pendle Brownfield Sites Grant Fund against a set of criteria which had been agreed by the Council's Executive. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Executive be asked to revise the criteria slightly.

(i) Applications considered at the last meeting

In response to decisions made at the last meeting, the Senior Regeneration Officer provided additional information on the following two applications, for further consideration by the Panel.

- **Bank Street Joinery Works, Barnoldswick**

At the last meeting, the Panel had agreed to offer a grant of £11,710 towards the development at Bank Street Joinery Works, Barnoldswick.

Following discussions with the applicant, a revised development appraisal was submitted for consideration.

AGREED

That a grant of £50,000 be awarded towards the scheme.

REASON

To enable the applicant to proceed with the development.

- **Former Harpers Inn, Fence**

As requested at the last meeting, the Panel was provided with a breakdown of the construction costs for the development at the former Harpers Inn site, Fence.

AGREED

That no funding be awarded to the scheme at this stage.

REASON

The costs on the scheme are relatively high and could be reduced with an alternative.

(ii) Applications for consideration

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

- **Haverholt Close, Colne**

The vacant site at Haverholt Close, Colne had planning permission for six, two-bed bungalows and a block of five, two-bed apartments.

A number of agreed criteria had not been met.

AGREED

That this grant application be refused.

REASON

The application fails to meet the agreed criteria.

(b) Pendle Brownfield Sites Main Fund

(i) Background information

The Panel received a report which provided background information to the Pendle Brownfield Sites Fund. It was reported that the Council's Capital Programme included a sum to assist with bringing forward brownfield sites for development. A portion of this money had been used to establish a Brownfield Sites Grants Fund. Several applications for this fund from private land owners/developers had already been considered by this Panel.

The remainder of the fund was known as the Main Fund and was available to support the development of brownfield sites within the borough through Pendle Enterprise and Regeneration Limited (PEARL).

All applications to both funds would be considered against a set of criteria which had been agreed by the Council's Executive.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

(ii) Applications for consideration

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

- **Oak Mill, Colne**

(Councillor M. Iqbal and Julie Whittaker declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.)

The site was a former mill site which had been cleared of its former buildings. Planning permission was in place for the development of 32 two and three bedroom houses. PEARL2, the Council's joint venture company with Barnfield Investment Properties had agreed terms to acquire the site from its current owners.

AGREED

That the grant application be supported subject to further negotiations with the current owners regarding the purchase of the site.

REASON

To ensure that the site is viable.

6. FOCUS ON YOUR BUSINESS – PENDLE BUSINESS WEEK 2016

The Panel received a report which provided an update on the Focus on Your Business Week which had been held in October 2016. The event had been co-hosted by Pendle Borough Council

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and Pendle Vision Board and consisted of free workshops, seminars and drop in sessions for businesses of all shapes and sizes, including pre-start, new and existing businesses.

The report provided an evaluation of the event's success and proposals for next year's event.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

CHAIRMAN _____