

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GEARING UP FOR GROWTH GRANTS PANEL
HELD ON 22ND FEBRUARY, 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

Paul Collins

Ashleigh Smith

Lynne Rowland

Employer Engagement Officer (PBC)

Business Support Team Leader (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.

2. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of this Panel, at a meeting held on 21st December, 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) Gina Smith – Tinkerbelle Boutique

Gina Smith wanted to expand her current online clothing outlet by setting up a retail premises between Nelson and Colne. She had been trading online for two months.

The requested funding was for the purchase of essential equipment to fit out the retail premises.

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The expansion of the existing online business into retail premises would create two jobs in the first two years, rising to four by year five. The business would also bring a currently vacant property back into commercial use.

Enterprise Lancashire had approved the business plan and cash flow.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £946.47 be awarded to Gina Smith in support of Tinkerbell Boutique, subject to the appropriate planning permissions being in place.

REASON

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

(b) Oliver Hartley – Hartley Interiors

Oliver Hartley was a bespoke furniture manufacturer, who had been trading since September, 2016. He aimed to specialise in custom cabinet and fitted furniture making. He intended to rent some workshop space, including the use of industrial machinery.

The requested funding was for the purchase of equipment for work that would take place on site.

The project would create two full time jobs over the next 18 months.

Enterprise Lancashire had approved the business plan and cash flow.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £2,000 be awarded to Oliver Hartley in support of Hartley Interiors.

REASON

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

(c) Julie McWilliam – Happy Duck Interiors

Julie McWilliam's business involved the upcycling and renovation of furniture. She currently had a web presence but planned to expand the business by securing premises in Barnoldswick for retail, workshops and renting out any spare rooms/space to like-minded artists/businesses.

The requested grant was for the purchase of equipment.

The project would initially create one full time job. It was intended to create an additional job at the end of year two trading.

Enterprise Lancashire had approved the business plan and cash flow.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £1,725.45 be awarded to Julie McWilliam in support of Happy Duck Interiors.

REASON

The business appears sustainable and 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) Ace Case Ltd

Ace Case Ltd was established in 1974 and manufactured metal cases and cabinets for the transformer and electrical industries.

As a result of current growth and anticipated future growth they needed to install a new production line.

The requested grant was to assist with the cost of machinery.

As a direct result of this project the business expected to create five full time positions in the new production line including two skilled jobs. The project would also safeguard two full time jobs.

AGREED

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

REASON

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

(b) Agenda Boxes and Packaging Ltd

Agenda Boxes and Packaging Ltd was established in 2015 and manufactured packaging including corrugated plastic, foam and food packaging.

The project is to carry out the relevant work required to achieve the necessary accreditation in food packaging standards, which included modifying their existing premises. Additional work would also be carried out in anticipation of future growth.

The project would create three full time jobs and safeguard an additional 10 jobs.

AGREED

That a grant of £8,000 be awarded to Agenda Boxes and Packaging Ltd.

REASON

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

(c) J & J Closures Ltd

J & J Closures Ltd was established in 1996 and manufactured cosmetic products for the medical, pharmaceutical and health and beauty markets. The company also manufactured lip balm products supplied to a number of national retailers and sold directly to the consumer via an ecommerce website.

The project was to further develop their ecommerce website and training to upskill existing staff. A second part was to purchase equipment to allow the company to develop new formulations to further expand the product range.

The project would create two full time jobs and safeguard an additional two.

AGREED

That a grant of £5,970 be awarded to J & J Closures Ltd.

REASON

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

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

CHAIRMAN _____