

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GEARING UP FOR GROWTH GRANTS PANEL
HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER, 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

Paul Collins

Hassan Ditta

Ashleigh Smith

Lynne Rowland

Business Support Team Leader (PBC)

Employer Engagement Officer (PBC)

Economic Promotion Graduate (PBC)

Committee Administrator (PBC)



24. 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 Week – Summary

Minute No. 28

25. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of this Panel, at a meeting held on 24th October, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26. 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) Stacey Beckett – Annabelle Designs

Stacey Beckett was setting up a business which involved the manufacture and resale of dance and leisurewear products and the design, manufacture and sales of posing garments for bodybuilders.

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The requested grant was for the purchase of equipment and website development.

The project would create three full time jobs.

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support and the business plan and cash flow had been signed off as complete.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £2,000 be awarded to Stacey Beckett in support of Annabelle Designs.

REASON

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

(b) Syed Mazhar – Team Autotech

Team Autotech was a car maintenance business that had been trading for less than six months. It specialised in fault finding and electrical problems and also offered vehicle remapping services.

The requested grant was for the purchase of equipment.

The project would create one full time job.

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support and the business plan and cash flow had been signed off as complete.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £2,000 be awarded to Syed Mazhar in support of Team Autotech.

REASON

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

(c) Maxine Barbar/Shawn Fuller – Colne Hot Tubs

Colne Hot Tubs was a business that hired out a range of party equipment.

The requested grant was for the purchase of more items to hire out and add to existing packages.

The business had been trading for less than six months and had created two full time jobs.

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicants with business support and the business plan and cash flow had been signed off as complete.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £1,985.60 be awarded to Maxine Barbar and Shawn Fuller in support of

Colne Hot Tubs.

REASON

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

(d) Lucas Dean – Custom Car Specialist

Lucas Dean was setting up a specialised custom car business.

The requested grant was for the purchase of equipment and website development.

The project would create one full time job.

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support and the business plan and cash flow had been signed off as complete.

AGREED

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

REASON

The business does not appear sustainable and therefore does not contribute to the Council's priorities of sustaining strong economic growth.

27. 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) The Furniture Company (GB) Ltd

The Furniture Company (GB) Ltd manufactured three-piece sofa suites.

The project was to purchase a piece of equipment that would help grow the number of pieces that could be produced, as well as the range of products.

As a direct result, the business expected to create four new full time jobs consisting of three skilled posts and one clerical post.

AGREED

That a grant of £10,000 be awarded to The Furniture Company (GB) Ltd.

REASON

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

(b) William Turner and Son (Stockport) Ltd

William Turner and Son (Stockport) Ltd manufactured school uniforms and accessories; corporate ties; and bespoke accessories including bags, scarves and gloves.

The company had outgrown their existing site in Colne and had purchased a new unit elsewhere in Pendle.

The project was to fit out the new unit.

Although no new jobs would be created, 34.5 full time equivalent posts would be safeguarded.

AGREED

That a grant of £10,000 be awarded to William Turner and Son (Stockport) Ltd.

REASON

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

28. BUSINESS WEEK - SUMMARY

(Kevin Clark declared a pecuniary interest in this item. He did not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting. As the item was for information only, there was no vote taken.)

The Employer Engagement Officer provided an overview of Pendle Business Week that had taken place week commencing 16th October, 2017. It was reported that 16 sessions had been delivered with a total of 206 delegates attending. Positive feedback had been received.

29. COLNE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Business Support Team Leader provided an update on progress with developing a Business Improvement District (BID) for Colne. It was noted that the boundary for the BID had been agreed.

A costed BID proposal based on four key themes identified from the priority survey was due to go out to consultation in January, 2018.

30. PENDLE BUSINESS AWARDS

As agreed at the last meeting, Pennine Events had been awarded the tender to deliver the Pendle Business Awards 2018. Proposals for the event venue were to be discussed at a meeting on Monday 11th December.

31. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that a report was due to be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive to consider a change to the Gearing up for Growth Grants Programme. Consideration would be given to replacing grants with loans. Discussions had taken place with Lancashire County Council who currently delivered loans for Burnley Borough Council.

32.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

CHAIRMAN _____