

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GEARING UP FOR GROWTH GRANTS PANEL
HELD ON 6TH JUNE, 2018
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Panel Members

*Councillor J. Cooney
Councillor M. Goulthorp
Julie Whittaker
Kevin Clark*

*Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager (PBC)
Enterprise Lancashire*

Officers in attendance

<i>Paul Collins</i>	<i>Business Support Team Leader (PBC)</i>
<i>Hassan Ditta</i>	<i>Employer Engagement Officer (PBC)</i>
<i>Ashleigh Smith</i>	<i>Economic Promotion Graduate (PBC)</i>
<i>Deborah McCarthy</i>	<i>Assistant Economic Development Officer (PBC)</i>
<i>Lynne Rowland</i>	<i>Committee Administrator (PBC)</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Wakeford.)



1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor J. Cooney be appointed as Chairman of the Panel for the municipal year 2018/19.

2. 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 –

<i>Councillor J. Cooney</i>	<i>Applications for Start-up Grants –</i>	<i>Minute No. 5(a)</i>
<i>Councillor M. Goulthorp</i>	<i>Appraisal 1 – SH/AB, Laneshawbridge,</i>	
<i>Kevin Clark</i>	<i>Colne</i>	

3. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of this Panel, at a meeting held on 7th December, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. GRANTS FOR GROWTH SPEND UPDATE

Paul Collins, the Business Support Team Leader gave an overview of the Gearing up for Growth

Programme which included details on the Programme's achievements during the last financial year. Information on proposed activity and respective budget allocations for 2018/19 were also provided. These were to be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its June meeting.

5. 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) Appraisal 1 – SH/AB, Laneshawbridge, Colne

(Kevin Clark and Councillors J. Cooney and M. Goulthorp declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.)

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 SH/AB.

REASON

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

(b) Appraisal 2 – JB, Nelson

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support.

AGREED

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

REASON

It would not represent a sound investment.

(c) Appraisal 3 – AP, Colne

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £1,611.75 be awarded to AP.

REASON

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

(d) Appraisal 4 – ZS, Earby

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 £1,000 be awarded to ZS.

REASON

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

6. GRANTS FOR GROWTH

Prior to consideration of the growth grant applications Hassan Ditta, the Employer Engagement Officer provided information on the criteria for Grants for Growth funding.

The Panel was then provided with a project summary, including information on the background of the Company, and a breakdown of investment costs, with regard to the following applications –

(a) Appraisal 1 – Limited Company, Brierfield

The project was expected to create an additional 7.5 jobs.

AGREED

That this application for a growth grant be refused.

REASON

Necessary information has not been supplied as requested.

(b) Appraisal 2 – Limited Company, Nelson

The project would safeguard 12 full time jobs.

AGREED

That consideration of this application be deferred.

REASON

To allow for further information.

7. APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Employer Engagement Officer reported that, due to the cancellation of the February 2018 meeting, a number of applications had been determined by the Panel via email.

Details were provided at the meeting.

8. PENDLE BUSINESS AWARDS

It was reported that the 2018 Pendle Business Awards would be held at the Fence Gate Inn on Thursday 5th July.

Judging of the c80 applications was complete and the winners had been decided.

This included winners of the following two newly introduced categories -

- Pendle Apprentice of the Year Award
- Pendle Making a Local Difference Award

9. WORK INSPIRATION EVENT

It was reported that the annual one-day Work Inspiration Event had been held at Nelson and Colne College on 7th February 2018.

All six Pendle secondary schools had participated in the event, with 944 Year 9 pupils attending.

The event showed the pupils what employment opportunities were available locally and gave them the opportunity to try small practical activities with businesses to learn about their industry.

As the event had taken place for a number of years, feedback was now being sought from current year 11 pupils (former attendees) to assess if the event had influenced their education/career choices.

Plans for the 2019 event were being finalised.

10. COLNE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Business Support Team Leader provided an update on progress with developing a Business Improvement District (BID) for Colne.

He explained that all eligible businesses had been sent a ballot paper which had to be returned by Thursday 28th June, 2018.

11. BUSINESS START-UP WORKSHOPS

The Employer Engagement Officer reported on a programme of business start-up workshops that had taken place between September 2017 and March 2018. The workshops had been run jointly with Burnley Borough Council, with sessions taking place in both boroughs.

It was noted that some sessions had been more popular than others. This was being taken into consideration when planning the workshops from September 2018 onwards.

12.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

That the next meeting of the Panel be held at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday 1st August, 2018.

CHAIRMAN _____