

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GEARING UP FOR GROWTH GRANTS PANEL
HELD ON 1ST AUGUST, 2018
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Panel Members

*Councillor M. Goulthorp
Councillor C. Wakeford
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 J. Cooney.)



13. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

AGREED

That, in the absence of the Chairman, Councillor M. Goulthorp be appointed as Chairman for this meeting only.

Councillor M. Goulthorp – In the Chair

14. 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.

15. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of this Panel, at a meeting held on 6th June, 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. 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 – BS - FTH, Nelson

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support.

AGREED

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

REASON

The business plan does not demonstrate the demand for grant funding.

(b) Appraisal 2 – BSS – E&JM, Barnoldswick

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support.

AGREED

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

REASON

The application does not meet the agreed criteria.

(c) Appraisal 3 – SH – ATP, Colne

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support.

AGREED

That this 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.

(d) Appraisal 4 – AR – FG Ltd, Earby

Enterprise Lancashire had provided the applicant with business support.

AGREED

That a start-up grant of £1,000 be awarded to AR – FG Ltd.

REASON

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

17. GRANTS FOR GROWTH

The Panel was 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) New applications

(i) Appraisal 1 – J&RG Ltd, Nelson

The project would create three full time jobs.

AGREED

That a growth grant of £8,000 be awarded to J&RG Ltd, subject to the necessary health and safety policies being in place.

REASON

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

(ii) Appraisal 2 – MA Ltd, Barrowford

The project would create five full time posts and help safeguard 48 jobs.

AGREED

That a growth grant of £10,000 be awarded to MA Ltd.

REASON

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

(b) Deferred applications

(i) Appraisal 1 - JKBS Ltd

Consideration of this application had been deferred at a previous meeting, to allow for further information.

It was reported that the necessary information had since been received and a decision to support the application for a growth grant had been made by the Panel via email.

However, it was reported that, since the decision, the company's circumstances had changed.

The Panel was asked whether it wished to continue with the grant offer.

AGREED

That the grant offer to JKBS Ltd be withdrawn.

REASON

Due to the change in circumstances.

18. COLNE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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

He advised that all eligible businesses had been balloted, with the majority voting in favour of developing a BID. As a result, an official limited company would be established.

In the meantime, a meeting would be held to which all levy paying businesses had been invited. Nominations for the Board had also been requested.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Gearing up for Growth Programme Budget

It was reported that the budget for the Gearing up for Growth Programme had been approved by the Policy and Resources Committee.

This had been subject to one amendment in which the Into Employment Initiative had been removed and the funding made available for other elements of the Programme.

The Policy and Resources Committee had also agreed to allocate £10,000 from the Programme to support an increase in apprenticeship provision in Pendle.

An update was also provided on the Pendle Business Class Hub which had been funded by the Gearing up for Growth Programme. It had been determined that the Business Class Hub had not provided value for money. As a result half of the funding had been returned.

(ii) Pendle Business Awards

It was reported that the 2018 Pendle Business Awards held in July had been a success. It had been the first time that the delivery of the event had been outsourced. Although the event had cost slightly more than normal, this had been outweighed by the savings in officer time.

(iii) Careers Hub

The Panel was advised that Pendle had been announced as a 'Careers Hub' along with Burnley and Blackpool. This involved improvements to careers education for young people to improve their employability.

(iv) Pendle Business Week

It was reported that the 2018 Pendle Business Week would take place week commencing 15th October, 2018. Prior to this, on 5th October, a 'Pendle Prospects' jobs fair would be held at the Ace Centre, Nelson.

20.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

CHAIRMAN _____