

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
GEARING UP FOR GROWTH GRANTS PANEL  
HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019  
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

*PRESENT –*

***Panel Members***

*Councillor D. Clegg*

*Councillor S. Cockburn-Price*

*Councillor M. Iqbal*

*Neil Watson*

*Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager*

*Kevin Clark*

*Orvia*

***Officers in attendance***

*Hassan Ditta*

*Employer Engagement Officer (PBC)*



**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

**AGREED**

That Councillor M. Iqbal be appointed as Chairman of the Panel for the municipal year 2019/20.

*Councillor M. Iqbal - Chairman (In the Chair)*

**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.

**3. MINUTES**

**AGREED**

That the Minutes of this Panel, at a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. BUDGET UPDATE**

The Employer Engagement Officer reminded Members that 2018/19 had been the final year of the Gearing up for Growth Grants Programme. The previous Panel members had agreed that the remaining underspend of £22,000 from the Start-Up Grant scheme should be used for both start-up grants and grants for growth and spent on a first come first serve basis. The current Panel members agreed to look at applications on this basis until the funding had all been spent.

**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 application for a start-up grant. In reaching their decision, the members of the Panel

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considered the business plan and received information on what the requested grant was to be spent on.

**(a) Appraisal 1 – KH – T/A KTQFFMC**

The East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce 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.*

**6. APPLICATIONS FOR 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) Appraisal 1 – AHI, Nelson**

As a direct result of this project AHI would create three full-time posts, improve two buildings and improve 550m<sup>2</sup> of floor space.

**AGREED**

That a growth grant of £8,000 be awarded to AHI.

**REASON**

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

**(b) Appraisal 2 – V Ltd, Trawden**

As a result of the project the business would create two full-time skilled jobs whilst safeguarding an additional two jobs.

**AGREED**

That the application for a growth grant be refused.

**REASON**

*The business accounts show good profitability and does not demonstrate the need for grant funding, which could be invested more effectively elsewhere for a growing business.*

With Panel members' agreement the Employer Engagement Officer circulated a project summary for the following application -

**(c) Appraisal 3 – HM Ltd, Colne**

As a result of this project HM Ltd would create two full-time skilled jobs whilst safeguarding an additional two jobs.

**AGREED**

That a growth grant of £3,607 be awarded to HM Ltd.

**REASON**

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

**7. APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Employer Engagement Officer reported that since the last meeting, two applications for grants for growth had been approved by the Panel via email. Details were provided at the meeting.

He was asked to email the remaining balance to the Panel following the allocations made at this meeting.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**AGREED**

That another meeting of the Panel be arranged when there were some further applications to consider.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_