



REPORT FROM: Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager

TO: Nelson Town Deal Board

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BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND GROWTH PROJECT – TOWN DEAL BOUNDARY BUFFER ZONE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To ask the Board to consider a 'buffer zone' for the Nelson Town Deal Business Grants Programme (the Business Resilience and Growth project).

Recommendations

1. That the Town Deal Board recommend to Pendle Borough Council's Policy and Resources Committee the creation of a 'buffer zone' to the existing Nelson Town Deal boundary for the Business Resilience and Growth project.

Reasons for recommendations

1. In order that highly appropriate businesses that are on the edge of the existing Nelson Town Deal boundary do not lose out on the opportunities offered by the Nelson Town Deal grants, where they will provide benefits to the town's economy.
2. In order that Nelson benefits from the inclusion of these businesses

Background

1. Nelson Town Deal Business Grants

The Business Resilience and Growth project was considered and approved by the Town Deal Board and the Council's Policy and Resources Committee in May. The Project Summary Document is currently with Government and we are expecting their funding decision later in the summer.

2. Progress and the issue

If approved, businesses within the Nelson Town Deal area boundary will be able to apply for a maximum of £100,000 to assist their businesses. This will in turn help the Nelson local economy. In the process of carrying out soft market testing when developing the business case, the Council received feedback from a number of local businesses located just outside the official Nelson Town Deal boundary who could benefit from the funding, with some expressing an interest in it.

The official Town Deal boundary is attached to this report (APPENDIX 1). The boundary includes key industrial areas such as the Whitewalls and Lomeshaye Industrial Estates, but does not include a number of important manufacturing businesses in the Nelson (BB9) postcode who are just on the edge of the officially designated TD boundary. This includes:

- a) Lower Clough Mill – adjacent to Nelson and Colne College but approximately 50m outside of the current boundary, as well as the former AC/DC building opposite the College.
- b) North Valley Business Park off Reedyford Road, again just outside of the boundary.
- c) Northlight – whilst this is a mixed use scheme there is scope for some manufacturing space. It is an important local business landmark site within a very small distance of the official Town Deal boundary.

The location of some of the premises reflects the fact Nelson is a former mill town where industry often sits alongside housing in old mills. There is a continuous built up area through Colne, Nelson and Brierfield which means that any boundary round the Nelson area could be considered somewhat artificial.

3. Resolving the issue

In order that these important businesses are included in this project it is suggested that a buffer zone is created which would allow applications for this business funding from these businesses and others which may also be in the near vicinity.

The buffer zone suggested is 0.5 mile from the official boundary as “the crow flies”. In addition to meeting the criteria to be accepted for these grants, any business within this buffer zone would be asked to state additional reasons why they should be accepted for these grants.

These additional reasons would include the number of existing employees who are from the Nelson area, and local supply chain links to Nelson. Just like every business that applies for these grants these companies would have to go through a strict scoring matrix and standard procedure to meet all eligible criteria and outputs.

It is requested that the Board consider the buffer zone, which would only apply to this project, and recommend its creation to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee. Subject to their agreement, this will then be requested for acceptance by DLUCH.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report

Financial: None arising directly from this report

Legal: None arising directly from this report

Risk Management: None arising directly from this report

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report

Sustainability: None arising directly from this report

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report

APPENDICES APPENDIX 1 – Nelson Town Deal Boundary Map

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - None