

**REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
MANAGER**

TO: COUNCIL

DATE: 8th DECEMBER, 2022

Report Author: Michael Williams
Tel. No: 01282 661963
E-mail: michael.williams@pendle.gov.uk

BUSINESS GROWTH AND RESILIENCE GRANTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report to the Council on the progress of the Business Resilience & Growth Grants Programme (BRiGG Programme).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Council notes the progress of the grants.
- (2) That the Council delegates spending on the Business Growth and Resilience Grants Programme to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager or the Section 151 Officer.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) *In order that the Members remain apprised of developments concerning the spending for the grants.*
- (2) *In order that the spending is administered in accordance with a lawful delegation of the authority to do so.*

1. Background

- 1.1 In August 2021, a Heads of Terms offer was agreed for up to £25m of Towns Funding through a Town Deal for Nelson. The Town Deal Board and the Accountable Body (Pendle) subsequently reviewed and confirmed the details of the projects to be delivered, and a Town Deal grant offer letter was received from Government in response to this in December 2021.

- 1.2. In order to 'unlock' delivery funding, all 8 strategic projects, including the Business Resilience & Growth Grants project, were required to produce an HM Treasury Green Book compliant business case. A Project Summary Document was then submitted to HM Government and approved by them.
- 1.3 On the 26th May 2022 Pendle Council's Policy & Resources Committee resolved that £2million be allocated to the Business Resilience and Growth project subject to certain conditions being met. The Policy & Resources Committee also delegated authority to the project appraisal sub group to ensure that the conditions were met, which they have now done.
- 1.4 The funds allocated and included in the Capital Programme are as follows
- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 2022-23 | £500,000 | (intervention rate up to 50%) |
| 2023-24 | £500,000 | (intervention rate up to 50%) |
| 2024-25 | £450,000 | (intervention rate up to 30%) |
| 2025-26 | £450,000 | (intervention rate up to 20%) |
- Total £1.9million (plus 100k revenue over four years for administration and promotion)
- 1.5 The overall funding package has been agreed, as have the parameters for spending. A Grants Panel will consider each application. The accountable body however needs to finally sign off the grants.
- 1.6 The mechanism for doing that would normally be to delegate the final grant offer to a senior officer of the Council to complete. It is recommended that the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory (PEDRS) Services Manager or Section 151 Officer be granted delegated authority to agree the final grants once the Panel has considered the grant and made a recommendation to give the grant. The process by which this would be done is indicated below.

2. The Grant Process

The process would be as follows:

- 2.1. Expression of Interest (EOI) Form to be filled in by business
- 2.2 EOI is marked and if suitable is moved to Full Application (FA).
- 2.3 Once full application is received it is initially assessed by the Project Lead (A member of the Economic Development Team). Further questions may be asked by the Economic Development Officer (EDO) at this point.
- 2.4 The application (along with others) will be circulated to the Grant Panel with a summary. The summary will contain a recommendation. The recommendation will be guided by the expert advisers that are based on the Grant Panel. The Grant Panel members are listed in Appendix 1.
- 2.5 At Grant Panel the decisions will be to either: approve; approve with conditions; reject or defer an application for further information. The decision of the Panel would then be agreed by the Council as grant funding body. There will be no right of appeal against final decisions.
- 2.6 Decisions will be reported back to the Nelson Town Deal Board.

- 2.7 Unless a part payment or a deposit is requested and approved, the applicant will pay for their scheme first then claim back the agreed grant.
- 2.8 After the scheme and its payment has been verified the grant payment will be made to the applicant. Grants of up to £20,000 would be approved by the Principal Economic Development Officer and grants over £20,000 and up to £100k (the maximum grant) will be approved by the Service Head of PEDRS or Section 151 Officer
- 2.9 The outputs required will be checked and evidenced with the company 6-12 months after the payment.
- 2.10 Further summary reports will be generated to keep everyone above apprised of the overall progress of this project.

3. Progress

- 3.1 At the time of writing this report there are 20 companies that have applied for funds through an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) form so there is a good pipeline of applications.
- 3.2 Six of these companies have now completed full application forms and four were considered at the first Grant Panel on Wednesday 23rd November 2022.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report

Financial: As detailed in 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: As detailed in this report

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Grant Panel Members

Mike Williams - Town Deal Business Grants Lead – Pendle Council – Tourism & Economic Development Officer.

Ryan Gifford - Pendle Council – Principal Economic Development Officer

Adrian Mitchell – MD Mitchell Interflex, Business Owner (Foulridge). Well known local industrialist

Catherine Ogden (Chair of ELCC Board and Director at Foulds Lifts, Colne)

Steve Sykes – Director of Sustainability at East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Low Carbon Programme Manager (expert on one of the priority areas)

Alan Reid MBE – Currently Innovation and Growth Specialist at Innovate UK EDGE. Former Growth Hub Business Relationship Manager for Lancashire and own mechanical engineering company. Previously over ten years experience as Company Director. (manufacturing expert)
Steve Wilkinson - Growth Hub - Lancashire Manufacturing Growth Fund Manager (manufacturing expert)
Mark Gibbons – Access to Finance Manager (BOOST). Expert in business finances

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS None