

<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>HEAD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024</b>

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## **PROGRESS REPORT ON NELSON TOWN DEAL BUSINESS GRANTS**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report to the board on the Business Resilience and Growth Grants Programme

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the report be noted.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

In order that the Town Deal Board is updated on the progress of the Business Resilience and Growth Grants Programme.

## **Background**

### **1. Nelson Town Deal Business Grants**

A £2million project to assist businesses and the wider economy in the Nelson Town Deal area started in September 2022 and is running until the end of March 2026. The programme is run by Pendle Borough Council's (PBC) Economic Development Officer

### **2. Priority Areas**

Three priority areas were chosen to assist companies, namely:

1. Investment in new plant or machinery
2. Energy efficiency/Carbon reduction
3. Premises improvements or adaptations

### 3. Budget Allocations

Originally only manufacturing businesses in the NTD area could apply for the grants but in September 2023 the grants were extended by the NTD Board to all business sectors, and this was ratified by PBC. Subsequently most of these companies on this extended list have been contacted. This year from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 until the end of March 2025 is programmed to be the last year of allocating the grants with the final year of the project from April 1st 2025 until the end of March 2026 being a monitoring year. The budget has been split as follows:

Year	Capital	Revenue
2022-2023	£500,000	£25,000
2023-2024	£700,000	£25,000
2024-2025	£700,000	£25,000
2025-2026	Monitoring Year	£25,000

### 4. Outputs and Outcomes

The project is committed to delivering the following direct outputs and outcomes:

- 38 businesses receiving support.
- 165 jobs created and 335 jobs safeguarded
- 13 new non-domestic buildings with green retrofits completed and 87 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent reduction
- 800 sqm new/adapted commercial floorspace
- 38 closer collaborations with employers

We expect to meet those targets and in some cases exceed them.

### 5. Progress of the programme

The progress achieved on the programme is illustrated in the tables below.

- Table 1 indicates the spend between 2022-2023 and defrayed expenditure.
- Table 2 is for 2023-24 and indicates where funding has been allocated as a commitment to a business, but the grant not yet paid out to the business.
- Both tables indicate that good progress has been made each year to reach the expenditure targets listed above.

**TABLE 1**

Finance Year	Project	Project Cost	Grant Paid	Companies Supported	Jobs Created	Jobs Safeguarded	CO2 saved M Tonnes	Adapted Premises M Sq
<b>2022-2023</b>								
<b>Company</b>								
Carradice	Premises adaptation & moving	£16,068.08	£7,429.97	1	4	6	0	250
Buoyant	Solar Panels	£217,309.69	£100,000.00	1	17	35	196.69	0
Furniture Company	CNC Machine	£26,500.00	£13,250.00	1	1	3	0	0
Agenda	CAD table & concreting	£64,178.40	£32,089.20	1	3	10	0	300
Aspire	Oil press & palet wrapping machine	£37,744.00	£17,372.00	1	4	6	0	0
Hartleys	Solar panels and new machines	£189,375.00	£94,687.94	1	9	20	22	0
Pennine labels	Print machine	£54,995.00	£27,497.50	1	4	6	0	0
Concept Plastics	Injection molding machines	£36,235.00	£18,117.50	1	2	4	0	0
Bright Engineering	Mazak CNC Laithe with cobot	£156,876.00	£78,438.00	1	8	16	0	0
Adpak	Solar panels	£169,620.00	£60,000.00	1	6	17	25	0
		<b>£968,901.17</b>	<b>£448,882.11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>243.69</b>	<b>550</b>
		Budget	£500,000.00	38	165	335	87	800
		Carried	<b>£51,117.89</b>	26.3%	35.2%	36.7%	280.1%	68.8%

N.B. – Hartleys and Bright Engineering are part paid as of 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. The remaining amounts to be paid are £31,790.44 and £14,688.

**TABLE 2**

Finance Year 2023-2024				Companies Supported				
Company	Project	Project Cost	Grant Allocated	Jobs Created	Jobs Safeguarded	CO2 saved M Tonnes	Adapted Premises M Sq	
Sovereign Group	Solar panels	£440,470.00	£100,000.00	1	10	20	101	
Hills Premier Polymers	Pipe extruding machines	£183,101.00	£91,550.50	1	15	6		
Farmhouse Biscuits	Cholocate Room Enclosure	£34,985.00	17,492.50	1	3	6	57	
Howorth Textiles	Machinery	£137,500.00	£50,000.00	1	5	10		
Sugdens	Mezzanine	£31,334.00	£15,667.00	1	2	4	66.5	
Vertex	Toolstore and cleaning equipment	£10,518.00	£5,259.00	1	1	2		
Whyte & Ivory	Solar panels	£47,431.00	£20,000.00	1	2	4	10.04	
Straight Line Engineering	CNC	£204,000.00	£20,000.00	1	2	4		
Precision Tube & Laser	CNC Laser and 2 x CNC tube benders	£400,000.00	£100,000.00	1	11	0		
Clarkson Coatings	Laminator	£118,500.00	£59,250.00	1	6	55		
Build A Kit	Crane & CNC	£64,230.00	£32,115.00	1	4.5	8		
		<b>£1,672,069.00</b>	<b>£511,334.00</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>111.04</b>	<b>123.5</b>
		Carry over	£51,117.89					
		2023-24 Budget	£700,000.00					
		Allocations	<b>£511,334.00</b>					
		<b>Remainder</b>	<b>£239,783.89</b>					
<b>Going to panel</b>								
Robinson & Lawler	Piling rigs	£181,306.00	£90,653.00	1	14	35	0	0
Prolight	Premises adaptation	£204,081.00	£100,000.00	1	10	28	0	0
		<b>£385,387.00</b>	<b>£190,653.00</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Remaining budget</b>	<b>£49,130.89</b>					

## 6. Summary

The totals for the programme are below.:

These figure indicate that we are on target, and in many cases are likely to surpass the targets that have been set for this project.

	Businesses supported	Jobs Created	Jobs Safeguarded	CO <sub>2</sub> tonnes saved	Adapted Premises (m <sup>2</sup> )
Achieved to date	23	143.5	305	354.73	673.5
Target	38	165	335	87	800
% complete	60.5%	87%	91%	407.7%	84.2%

## 7. Publicity

The Council's Communications Team have generated a number of press stories about the programme. These can be viewed at <https://www.nelsontowndeal.co.uk/portfolio-item/business-resilience-and-growth/>



## 8. Forward look

A lot of effort has been put into pro-actively interacting with businesses and encouraging them to participate in the programme. At the current point in time there are 19 ongoing enquiries. One of those has a full application in for £100k. Four will be putting in full applications for £265k, and there have been five Expressions of Interest worth £154k.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** Economic Growth

**Financial:** As given 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:** None arising directly from this report

**Community Safety:** None arising directly from this report

**Equality and Diversity:** None arising directly from this report

**APPENDICES** None

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS** None