

REPORT FROM:	HEAD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
TO:	NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD
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PROGRESS ON BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND GROWTH PROJECT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

RECOMMENDATION

To note the report.

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 1st 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 2022-2023 Company	Project	Project Cost	Grant Paid	Companies Supported	Jobs Created	Jobs Safeguarded	CO2 saved M Tonnes	Adapted Premises M Sq
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
		£968,901.17	£448,882.11	10	58	123	243.69	550
		Budget	£500,000.00	38	165	335	87	800
		Carried	£51,117.89	26.3%	35.2%	36.7%	280.1%	68.8%

N.B. – Hartleys and Bright Engineering are part paid as of 7th May 2024. The remaining amounts to be paid are £19,720.44 and £14,688.

TABLE 2

Finance Year 2023-2024				Companies Supported					
Company	Project	Project Cost	Grant Allocated	Grant paid		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	17,492.50	1	3	6		57
Howorth Textiles	Machinery	£137,500.00	£50,000.00		1	5	10		
Vertex	Toolstore and cleaning equipment	£10,518.00	£5,259.00	£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	£35,000.00	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		
Hartleys	Part two			£12,070.00					
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	2812
Limitless	Solar panels		£100,000.00		1	10	20		
TLB Medical	Premises adaptation		£100,000.00		1	10	20	34	
		£2,026,122.00	£886,320.00	£69,821.50	14	103.5	218	145.04	2869
		Carry over	£51,117.89						
		2023-24 Budget	£700,000.00						
		2024-25 Budget	£700,000.00						
		Total	£1,451,117.89						
		Current allocations	£886,320.00						
		Remainder	£564,797.89						

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 ₂ tonnes saved	Adapted Premisses (m ²)
Achieved to date	24	161.5	341	388.73	3419
Target	38	165	335	87	800
% complete	60.5%	97.9%	101.8%	446.8%	427.4%

7. Case Studies

A number of companies have successfully received an NTD Business Grant. We have tried to pick out a number of these below in each category.

1. Investment in new plant or machinery

The Furniture Group in Railway Street, Nelson, has been given £13,000 to buy a CNC machine which uses computer software to dictate the movement of factory tools. The machine will enable them to employ a new member of staff and safeguard the work of three existing staff. A similar CNC machine for Agenda Boxes & Packaging (pictured here) worth £32,000, will secure 10 jobs and open up three new employment opportunities.



Six jobs will be created, and three retained, at Aspire UK Interiors, in Southfield Street, Nelson, with the grant funded purchase of a hot oil press and wrapping machine, worth £17,000. While at Concept Plastics, in the Barnfield Business Centre, Nelson, a new £18,000 injection moulding machine will create two new jobs and safeguard four.

Pennine Labels, in Enterprise Way on Whitewalls Industrial Estate, received funding of £27,000 to purchase a new print machine, which will save six jobs and create four new ones.

2. Energy efficiency/Carbon reduction

One of Pendle's biggest employers, Buoyant, received a grant of £100,000 from the NTD business grant fund toward the installation of solar panels. Furniture manufacturer Buoyant Upholstery Ltd, on Hallam Road in Nelson, completed the installation of 700 solar panels fitted onto its warehouse roof in a bid to keep reducing its carbon footprint. Mike Aramayo, Buoyant Upholstery's Managing Director, said: "We are grateful for funding to make this project possible."



Another carbon reduction project supported by the NTD Business grants is Hartley's Farm Foods on Lomeshaye. Managing Director, Michael Hartley, predicts that the new solar panels will save the family business £25,000 a year in energy costs. The grant of almost £95,000 is also helping to fund machinery which will increase Hartley's production by 30% and create new jobs in the coming year. Michael said: "We are very grateful to the Nelson Town Deal for this grant support." Other projects to help companies reduce their bills and at the same time be kinder to the planet are the solar panels installed at both Sovereign Group and Adpak.

3. Premises improvements or adaptations



Both Carradice (pictured here) and Farmhouse Biscuits received grants of £7,429 and £17,492 respectively to help them adapt their premises. The adaptations allowed Carradice to create more warehouse and production space and to move new machinery into place, whilst at Farmhouse it helped them create a new chocolate production enclosure. Both projects in total created 7 new jobs and safeguarded 12 jobs.

8. Forward look

Below is a snapshot of the current position

Current applications			
JRC	Solar panels		£8,047.50
Chantelle	solar panels and machines		£60,000.00
Wrapped	Premises adaptation		£15,000.00
Starprint	Machinery		£19,000.00
Crème Brulee	Equipment & Premises adaptation		£20,000.00
		TOTAL	£122,047.50
		Remaining budget	£564,797.89
		Remainder	£442,750.39
		Potential applications	£109,000.00
		Future funding	£333,750.39

As part of our continuous engagement with local businesses which be carried through a marketing company to target all micro (0-10 employees) and small (11-50 employees) and also a develop a press release and update on PBC website.

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.p

APPENDICES: None.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS: None.