



## Policy and Resources Committee - 5 July 2010

### Business Grant Approval

#### Summary

The business 'La Bella' has applied for a grant under the Council's Business Development Grant Scheme. The application has been through the usual verification and approval process provided by Business Link. However since the business is run by a Councillor, acknowledgement and endorsement of the grant approval is sought by the Committee in the interests of openness and transparency.

#### Attachment(s)

None

#### 1.0 Background information

1.1 The East Northamptonshire Business Development Grant Scheme is available to individuals starting a business to be located in East Northamptonshire and to existing East Northamptonshire based businesses with less than 10 employees. All types of businesses within East Northamptonshire (sole trader, partnership or limited company) can apply.

The budget for the scheme is £6,000. Funding is up to a maximum of £500 per approved application, which accommodates a minimum of 12 businesses per year at full funding.

The grant scheme is administered by the East Northamptonshire Council's Economic Development Assistant.

1.2 A grant of up to 50% of eligible expenditure, up to a maximum of £500 (excluding VAT), is available to start up new businesses or expand existing ones. (Businesses located in the rural hinterland of East Northamptonshire may be eligible to a grant of up to 75% of expenditure, up to a maximum of £500 (excluding VAT) as part of East Northamptonshire Council's commitment to rural diversification). Applicants have to demonstrate that the business will create new jobs or safeguard existing jobs and that the grant assistance will help the business develop. Payment will be made upon receipt of evidence of actual expenditure on equipment/services for which the grant has been awarded

1.3 Applicants are supported by an East Northamptonshire Council authorised proposer from Business Link who contacts the applicant to arrange a meeting to assess the application for funding and makes a recommendation with regard to the application. The report includes information on:  
Background; Competition; Proposal; Marketing; SWOT(strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats); Financial analysis; Projections; Conclusions and Recommendation.

1.4 Once a positive recommendation is made by Business Link, provided funds are still available, final approval of the grant is then made in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee. The applicant is then notified of the outcome.

#### 2.0 Application for Funding For La Bella

2.1 Cllr Sue Homer submitted an application form for grant funding to support a series of

advertises in the Nene Valley News to promote her business La Bella, an independent ladies fashion and designer clothing boutique which is moving into the bridal/wedding market. This would advertise the location of the business, and the goods available, throughout the whole district, thereby helping the business to develop. The application is for up to £500 funding.

2.2 Requirements specified in the application submission have been met and the Business Link proposer visited the business in Higham Ferrers to assess the application and recommended that it is supported by a grant.

2.4 Consultation was undertaken and approval received from Cllr Robin Underwood in accordance with the Council's Constitution Part 3.2 (Scheme of Delegation) item 37, which states that approval of a grant within the above scheme is subject to consultation with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee.

### 3.0 Endorsement

3.1 It is requested that, in the interests of openness and transparency, the Committee acknowledges and endorses this recommendation and approval of grant funding to La Bella via the East Northamptonshire Business Development Grant Scheme.

<b>Implications:</b>	
<b>Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy</b>	
Good Quality of Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Good Reputation <input type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input type="checkbox"/> High Quality Service Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong Community Leadership <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of our Customers and Communities <input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other:</b>	
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Financial</b>	There are no financial implications at this stage <input type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date <input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Risk Management</b>	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - <input type="checkbox"/> residual risk score - <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Staff</b>	There are no additional staffing implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equalities and Human Rights</b>	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Legal</b>	Power: Local Government Act 2000 s2; Local Government Act 1972 s144
	Other considerations:
<b>Background Papers:</b> Application for grant	
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Sharn Matthews, Monitoring Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 11 June 2010	
<b>CFO</b>	<b>MO</b>
	<b>CX</b>