

## RECORD OF INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION MADE BY A CABINET MEMBER

Decision Maker	Decision Type	Date
Cllr Arooj Shah	Delegated Decision in relation to Business Grants	27 March 2019

### Award of 3 Business Improvement Grants in Shaw district centre

#### Decision (s)

Approve Business Improvement Grant awards as follows:

- £2,450 to JMC Motors Ltd in respect of their premises on Beal Lane, Shaw
- £860 to Rylands Shoes Ltd in respect of Sole2Sole, 72 Market Street, Shaw, and
- £1,325 to Wrights Interiors Ltd in respect of 14 Milnrow Road, Shaw

<b>Exempt/Confidential Report</b>		<b>No</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>		<b>No</b>

#### Reasons for the decision(s)

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to award 3 Business Improvement Grants in Shaw District Centre.

The Council recognises the important role that independent businesses play in sustaining the vibrancy and vitality of our high streets and has developed a Business Improvement Grant scheme for Shaw District Centre. Discretionary grants of 50% of the costs of improvements, up to a maximum of £8,000, are available. The three grant recommended for approval are:

##### **JMC Motors Ltd, Beal lane Shaw**

The applicant is located on Beal Lane and is a second hand car dealership. They have a single story office building which currently has single glazed windows and doors. The applicant would like to replace these windows and door with double glazing to improve heat retention, reduce energy costs and make the business look smarter and easier to get into. They currently employ 5 full time staff and one part time member of staff.

The applicant is aware that Building Regulations approval is required and this will be a condition of any grant offered. The business is currently receiving full Small Business Rate Relief.

The applicant has submitted 3 quotes from Oldham based window companies and based on the lowest of these quotes, the work is estimated to cost £4,900. Therefore, the applicant is seeking a grant of £2,450 towards the cost of the works.

At their meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the Shaw and Crompton Grant Advisory Panel supported this application with a request to the business that they do not park vehicles in Thomas Street. Cllr's Hazel and Chris Gloster declared a conflict of interest for this application and were not be involved in any recommendations for this item.

#### **Ryland Shoes Ltd/Sole2Sole, 72 Market Street**

An application has been received from the proprietor of this clothing and shoe shop located on Market Street. The applicant has been trading from these premises for almost two years having previously been located in an industrial estate in Newhey.

They are applying for replacement shutters and a new sign. The existing shutters are solid aluminium and unattractive and the current signage is a temporary one over the previous occupants signage. The applicant wants to improve the look of the shop front and make the outside as attractive as the inside. The replacement shutters will be powder colour coated and the perforated type.

They are registered for Business Rates and currently receive full Small Business Rate Relief.

Based on the estimated costs of £1,720, they are seeking a grant of £860 towards the costs of the works. At their meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the Shaw and Crompton Grant Advisory Panel supported this application

#### **Wrights Interiors Ltd, 14 Milnrow Road**

The applicant is a kitchen/bedroom and bathroom showroom and interior design studio that has been operating for about 18 months. The premises are a double fronted building with a recessed doorway. The business has already painted the exterior and erected new signage but the existing roller shutters are in poor condition, being bare metal, dented and rusted. The business feel that the exterior of the shop does not reflect the quality of the product on offer. The current shutters are difficult to open and shut, creating noise for the tenants above the shop. The new shutters would be colour powder coated, perforated, electronic and much quieter and easier to use.

The business currently employ 2 full time and 2 part time members of staff as well as fitting teams who are self-employed. Increased business and orders would result in more employment.

The business are registered for Business Rates and currently receives full Small Business Rate Relief for the premises.

The applicant has submitted 3 quotes and based on the lowest quote of £2,650, the applicant is seeking a grant of £1,325. At their meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the Shaw and Crompton Grant Advisory Panel supported this application.

### **Options/Alternatives considered**

1. Do nothing. If the Council chooses to adopt this approach then the Council's regeneration aspirations for Shaw District Centre would be delayed. There is potential that the appearance of these premises and Shaw District Centre could decline further.
2. Approve the award of the Business Improvement Grant. Business Improvement Grant applicants will enter into a contract with the Council, to ensure that works are being undertaken satisfactorily with claw back arrangements for non-compliance. Funding takes place once the contract is completed and the works completed to the satisfaction of the Council.

**Conflict of Interest declared** : Cllr's Hazel and Chris Gloster declared a conflict of interest for the application by JMC motors and were not be involved in any recommendations for this item.

### **Councillor Arooj Shah - Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services**



**In consultation with**

**Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive, People & Place.**



**(Executive Director Signature)**

**Decision made pursuant to:**

- a) **Delegation to Cabinet Member under the Council's scheme of delegation.**