

## 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	12 June 2019

### Award of a Business Improvement Grants in Failsworth A62 Corridor

#### Decision (s)

Approve a Business Improvement Grant awards as follows:

- £4,856.50 to the M Group Manchester Ltd in respect of 485 Oldham Road, Failsworth

<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 a Business Improvement Grants in the Failsworth A62 Corridor area.

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 the Failsworth A62 corridor. 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:

#### **M Group Manchester Ltd, 485 Oldham Road, Failsworth**

This company occupies the former Fentons Solicitors building in a prominent location on Oldham Road. The company is a local family run construction company that was formerly known as Failsworth Electrical. They have occupied these premises for just over a year and have already invested in upgrading part of their building as their head office and sub-letting small office units on the first and second floor.

The reason for their application is that ½ of the ground floor is empty and in a state of disrepair. They would like to convert this space into a conference/meeting room that could also be used for



training of their employees. Currently, they have to train staff members and have meetings within the main office area which is not ideal. The new meeting room facility would enable the business to have a dedicated space to allow for in house training and meetings with clients etc and also free up space for additional staff to be recruited and work from the main office area as there currently isn't enough space to allow for this. They would also like the other occupants of the building to be able to use it and also other local businesses who require a space for meeting/training. They would also allow community groups and charities to also use the room.

The room is uninhabitable at present and needs rewiring, stud walls and plastering, new doors and wc/kitchenette facilities as well as all electrical works and new ceiling and decorating and new flooring. They have got three quotations from local companies and based on the lowest quote of £9,713, the business would like to apply for a grant of £4,856.50.

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 three nominated members of the grant advisory panel were emailed about this application on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and two of the three responded recommending approval of the application.

### **Options/Alternatives considered**

1. Do nothing. If the Council chooses to adopt this approach, then the Council's regeneration aspirations for the Failsworth A62 corridor would be delayed. There is potential that the appearance of these premises and the A62 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 : None**

**Councillor Arooj Shaw - 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.**