

RECORD OF INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION MADE BY A CABINET MEMBER

Decision Maker	Decision Type	Date
Cllr Sean Fielding	Delegated Decision in relation to Business Grants	25/10/2019

Award of a Business Improvement Grants in Failsworth A62 Corridor

Decision (s)

Approve a Business Improvement Grant awards as follows:

- £1,235 to Unicar Auto, in respect of 153 Oldham Road, Failsworth

Exempt/Confidential Report		No
Key Decision		No

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 grant recommended for approval is:

Unicar Auto, 153 Oldham Road, Failsworth

Unicar Auto which is located at 153 Oldham Road, close to the junction with Broadway. The business is a longstanding family business occupying these premises for many years. The premises are owned by the business which operates as a sole trader. During the past 12 months, the business has improved the appearance of the premises by recladding the front of the building and they will also be painting the shop front once the signage is installed. All this has been at their own cost.



Oldham
Council

The grant application is for new fixed signage which will be modern non-illuminated signage to further enhance the appearance of the business. The business is located at a very prominent spot on Oldham Road with a lot of passing traffic. New improved signage will enhance their exposure and present a professional image and attract new trade. Currently the business provides employment for the owner and 1 self-employed contractor. The aim is to grow the business and take on a full time motor mechanic and a trainee auto electrician.

The business is registered for Business Rates and currently receives Small Business Rate Relief.

They have obtained three quotations and based on the lowest quote of £2,470, the business would like to apply for a grant of £1,235.

The three nominated members of the grant advisory panel were emailed about this application on 16th October 2019 and all 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

Cllr Sean Fielding, Council leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise

In consultation with

Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive, People & Place.

(Deputy Chief Executive Signature)

Decision made pursuant to:

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