

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of Mark Kiddle-Morris, Executive Member for Assets & Strategic Development

**To: Grants Panel – 27th June
CMT – 30th July
Exec Board – 6th August
Cabinet – 4th September**

(Author: Dan Cox – Economic Development Officer)

Subject: Enterprise Support Programme in Norfolk

Purpose: This report seeks the support for funding to enhance and expand on the business start-up support programme that is being funded by Norfolk County Council.

Recommendation(s): That Cabinet accept the £80k NCC grant over 2 years and authorise the release of £40k (£20k per annum over the 2 year period 2012-2013 & 2013-2014) from the Match Funding Reserve (MFR) to support the £80k grant (£40k per year) that is proposed from Norfolk County Council to deliver Business start-up support throughout the County and to ultimately increase the number of Business Start-ups. (NI 171 – New business registrations). This will assist a minimum of 300 beneficiaries and help create and sustain at least 30 business starts.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 Norfolk County Council's Cabinet has recognised the need for County-wide Enterprise Support by providing a budget of £200,000 per year for 2 years initially – with the option to extend the project, based on a review of the outcomes achieved.
- 1.2 It is proposed that £40,000 (per year for 2 years) is made available to Breckland Council as a grant to provide a business start up service in one or more venues across the District area. The County Council wishes to use this funding as the basis for a wider programme of support that is aimed to develop in partnership as and when additional resource becomes available, as part of what will be called "Enterprise Norfolk". (See Appendix C available on request)
- 1.3 Norfolk County Council has encouraged Breckland Council to support this grant with a proportion of match funding to provide an enhanced provision of business support to beneficiaries of the business start up support offered as a result of the grant.
- 1.4 If Breckland Council's Cabinet approve the additional funding to support the project the Economic Development Service will be able to provide a wide range of bespoke business support to enhance the training that business start ups will have received as part of Enterprise Norfolk.

- 1.5 This enhanced provision will include one to one advice and guidance, skills development and mentoring which will increase the chance of the business start up surviving and growing into a successful business at a time when they are most vulnerable and require assistance to get off the ground.

2. OPTIONS

Option 1 – To accept the £80k NCC grant and to authorise the release of £40k over a 2 year period to enable a high level of enhanced support for business start ups.

Option 2 – To accept the £80k NCC grant and to authorise the release of a lesser amount of additional funding which will enable a lower level of enhanced support for business start ups.

Option 3 – To accept the £80k NCC grant and to not authorise any additional funding and offer no additional support for business start ups after the initial training.

Option 4 – Not to accept the £80k NCC grant.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Additional funding for this initiative will enable the service to provide a level of support to help nurture new business start ups and increase the chance of them maintaining a successful business in its early and most vulnerable stage.

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS

The ED Service will be able to offer bespoke support to a new business start up who has benefited from the specialist training delivered in Breckland as a result of the Norfolk County Council Grant.

Additional support such as skills development, one to one advice, guidance and mentoring will be offered to a new business start up which will increase the chance that the business will succeed and grow.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 **Legal** – n/a

5.2 **Risks** - The Risk Log is complete (appendix D is available on request)

5.3 **Financial** – The £80,000 grant from Norfolk County Council will have conditions attached. The £20,000 per year for 2 years (£40,000) will come from Breckland's Match Funding Reserve.

5.4 **Timescales** – Business Start Up courses due to start in August 2012.

5.5 **Equality and Diversity** – A Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (appendix E is available on request).

5.6 **Stakeholders / Consultation** – n/a

5.7 **Contracts** – Training providers will be procured in accordance with Council procurement guidelines.

6 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

All Breckland wards.

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Key Decision - This is not a Key Decision

Appendices (available on request)

- C. – Enterprise Norfolk paper (Norfolk County Council).**
- D. – Risk Log.**
- E. – Equality Impact Assessment**