

## 7. MICROBUSINESS GRANT SCHEME

**REPORT OF:** Economic Development Officer  
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**Wards Affected:** All

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### Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present 13 microbusiness grant applications for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel.

### Summary

2. A summary of the applications to be considered and the recommendations from the Economic Development Team on the level of financial assistance to be awarded to each organisation are detailed as follows:

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Just Drinking Water Ltd	New product launch	£2,000	£2,000
Dynamic Music Distribution	New website and social media development	£2,000	£2,000
Fun Pots Ltd	IT improvements/overhaul	£2,000	£2,000
InsideOut Home and Garden Improvements	New product development	£2,000	£2,000
Aureo Group Ltd	Marketing campaign	£2,000	£2,000
Press Start 2 Join Ltd	New equipment and website	£2,000	£2,000
A.S.L Carpentry and Construction	New van and apprentice	£3,500	£3,500
Cullen Scholefield Ltd	Website and marketing strategy	£2,000	£2,000
Local Edge Ltd	Product development	£2,000	£2,000
Words Guy Ltd	Training courses	£365	£365
Conquest Hard Landscaping	New equipment	£2,000	£2,000
Dennise Rathbone Ltd	Advertising and new laptop	£808.50	£808.50
Cater and Co. The Social Kinetic	Develop services	£2,000	£2,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£25,308.50</b>	<b>£25,308.50</b>

3. The panel is asked to note that, following the circulation of the Matrix detailing the grants, there was an inaccuracy on the application from Words Guy Ltd. The actual project cost is £365, not £730 as was listed.

### Recommendations

***Members of the Panel are requested to***

- a) Consider and decide upon the recommendations for each of the above applications, summaries of which are attached in Appendix A of this report.***

### Background

4. This is the second meeting of the Cabinet Grants Panel to consider the 2018/2019 Micro Business Grant Scheme. The scheme has seen a great deal of interest, and is already nearly fully subscribed. Following this meeting, the panel will have reviewed 20 of the 36 applications that have been submitted.

### Assessment and Policy Context

5. The applications received have been considered by the Council's Economic Development Officer, William Hawkins. A summary of the assessment of each application is included within the individual project reports in Appendix A
6. All organisations have met the basic criteria and specific grant criteria, i.e. are properly constituted micro-businesses and have provided the relevant information to support their application. Most applicants have been subject to a due diligence review, exceptions to this are Conquest Hard Landscaping and Dennise Rathbone Ltd. A verbal confirmation of the due diligence checks for the aforementioned businesses will be provided at the Cabinet Grants Panel meeting.

### Financial Implications

7. The microbusiness grants are funded through an allocation from the WSCC business rates pool, with £500,000 to be divided equally between districts.
8. The current fund stands at:

Scheme	Original fund	Funds approved	Funds requested	Balance
Micro Business Grant Scheme	£72,000	£11,125	£25,308.50	£35,566.50

9. Some of the applicants listed have noted they are not VAT registered and have requested that the grant awarded includes the VAT on items/services purchased. A written confirmation, from the applicant, will be requested before this is confirmed. Applicants in question are: Press Start 2 Join, A.S.L Carpentry and Construction and Dynamic Music Distribution. This is also likely the case for Dennise Rathbone Ltd, but will be confirmed during the aforementioned due diligence review.

### Risk Management Implications

10. The main associated risk to the successful implementation of the decisions arising from this report is the inability of the funded organisations to carry out the services, activities or equipment purchase for which funding had been awarded.
11. To minimise this risk, the decision has been taken to only pay out the grants following proof, from the applicant, that the project in question has begun, or equipment has been purchased. This is in the form of receipts, invoices etc.

### Equality implications

12. As part of the due diligence process all of the businesses whose bids are included in this report Council have been assessed to be in compliance with the requisite policies/legislation.

### Legal Implications

13. The Council is not obliged to provide grant funding, but by virtue of section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, it is able to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area. This includes the incurring of expenditure, giving financial assistance to any person (or organisation) and entering into arrangements or agreements with any person.

### **Background Papers**

14. Grant applications and associated documentation for the Microbusiness Grant Scheme are held in the Economic Development Team.