

MEETING OF COMMISSIONER KENNY
Monday, 6th July, 2015

Present:- Commissioner Kenny

Also in attendance Councillor Lelliott, Advisory Cabinet Member.

17. WHILST THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 DO NOT APPLY TO THIS MEETING IT IS STILL PROPOSED TO DETERMINE IF THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE CATEGORIES SUGGESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT ACT.

18. DECISION AND MINUTE DOCUMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8TH JUNE, 2015.

The decision sheet and minutes of Commissioner Kenny's previous meeting held on 8th June, 2015, were considered.

Whilst no decision-specific representations had been received, one had been received about the decision making process. A response had been prepared and sent on 1st July, 2015.

The decision sheet and minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

19. STREET CAFÉ GRANT APPLICATIONS.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Retail Investment Manager that outlined a proposal for three Town Centre Street Café Grants from the Business Vitality Grant Programme. This grant existed to bring about improvements to the street scene through the provision of high quality street café furniture, temporary canopies/ umbrellas and portable enclosure barriers. This aimed to improve the vitality and viability of the Town Centre and sustaining the local economy.

It was noted that planning permission and a highways permit had to be in place before the furniture was sited. Consideration was given to this, and it was proposed that a payment of £385 be made to cover these costs where necessary.

Further detail was provided on the Cafés who had applied for the grants. It was intended that the furniture would provide seating for 16 customers at Miele and Delight Café Lounge. As the outdoor seating for Scarlett's Café Bar and Deli would be on privately owned land, planning permission and a highways permit was not necessary.

The Street Café Grants would be funded from the Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund. £20,000 was made available for this project expenditure; individual grants would be capped at £2,000. Reimbursement of planning fees would be funded from the Local Area Business Growth Incentive (LABGI).

Grants would be paid in arrears on submission of applicants' proof of payment to suppliers and all necessary permissions being met.

The submitted report outlined the option for the Council to withdraw the offer of financial assistance or to withhold payment in part or full in conditions of the Grant. The Council could recover the grant money from the applicant if the furniture was not maintained, was damaged and not replaced or where the applicant discontinued the provision of the street café.

Minded to Grant decision: - (1) That a capital grant of £2,000 and a revenue grant of £385 be awarded to the following businesses: -

- Miele Delicatessen;
- Delight Café Lounge.

(2) That a capital grant of £2,000 be awarded to the following business: -

- Scarlett's Café Bar & Deli.

Date of Publication of the Minded to Grant Decision: - Wednesday 8th July, 2015.

Representations upon the decision are invited from Councillors, members of the public, partner agencies and any interested body or individual within five working days from the date of publication and must be received by Hannah Etheridge hannah.etheridge@rotherham.gov.uk no later than 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 15th July, 2015.

20. TOWN CENTRE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Retail Investment Manager that outlined an application for a Town Centre Business Development Grant, funded through the Portas Pilot Initiative. The purpose of the grants were for existing retailers to support and improve their business, to protect/ improve sales and profits, and to increase the overall quality and variety of the town centre shopping offer.

The report outlined the proposed re-location of the existing town centre destination business, Craft Corner and The Bear's Den, to a High Street unit. This would increase footfall to the business and bring new footfall to the High Street. Craft Corner and The Bear's Den was a specialist retail shop supplying craft materials, collectable teddy bears, gifts and cards. It

had been trading successfully in Rotherham for over twenty years in Rotherham Town Centre and was a market leader with no directly comparable specialist operators in the immediate locality.

The Retail Investment Manager explained how the application had been assessed and recommended by a local business panel.

The eligibility criteria for projects being supported through the Business Development Grant Scheme was considered. The criteria included: -

- The project must be within the grant aided area of the Town Centre;
- The project was required to add credibility to the independent, specialist shopping offer of the Town Centre as a whole;
- The applicant had to be an independent trader and an existing successful business, as evidenced through trading accounts;
- Relocation to the High Street would improve the operational functionality of the business and would appeal to a wider customer base;
- The applicant must work with consultants to prepare a business plan and detailed financial forecasts;
- The applicant would participate in a quarterly review against the business plan and would agree to any remedial actions as needed.

The grant would be funded from the Portas Pilot Funding (£100k from British Land, and £100k the DCLG). The grant was discretionary and was paid in arrears. The business would be monitored at regular intervals over three years and should it cease to trade or be sold the grant conditions enabled the Council to recover grant monies from the applicant.

Minded to Grant decision: - That a Business Development Grant of £7,500 for Craft Corner and The Bear's Den be approved.

Date of Publication of the Minded to Grant Decision: - **Wednesday 8th July, 2015.**

Representations upon the decision are invited from Councillors, members of the public, partner agencies and any interested body or individual within five working days from the date of publication and must be received by Hannah Etheridge hannah.etheridge@rotherham.gov.uk no later than 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 15th July, 2015.