

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

REVIEW OF SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an action plan relating to the support for small businesses in North Lincolnshire.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 21 May 2008, council considered a report of the Economic Development and Corporate Issues Scrutiny Panel in relation to a review of support for small businesses in North Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 Following the completion of the Panel's review in January 2008 council approved the preparation of an action plan in response to the Panel's recommendations.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Economic Development and Corporate Issues Scrutiny Panel recommendations were as follows –
- that everyone involved throughout this review be thanked for their contributions.
 - that a newsletter be issued to every business on the council's procurement database, detailing support information that is available to small businesses.
 - that a reminder be sent to all Procurement Managers that they have a duty under European Law to offer losing firms in tendering exercise a de-brief on why a contract was not won.
 - that the creation of a new post or the creation of a focal point within the council's Regeneration Team be investigated, to specifically offer general advice, guidance and signposting for all local small businesses.

- that the council advertise and promote the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme and application process more widely across businesses in North Lincolnshire.

3.2 The options are to consider the various actions set out in the action plan.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

4.1 There are no resource implications associated with the recommendations when they are implemented.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

5.1 There are no other implications associated with the implementation of the recommendations within the action plan.

6. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

6.1 The panel consulted other scrutiny members and officers and small businesses in North Lincolnshire in relation to the preparation of the original report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That the action plan be approved.

HEAD OF STRATEGIC REGENERATION, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

Pittwood House
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB
Author: Marcus Walker
Date: 1 October 2008

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

1. Review of Support for small businesses in North Lincolnshire – Cabinet Paper 21 May 2008
2. Review of Support for small businesses in North Lincolnshire – Panel Recommendations Economic Development and Corporate Issues Scrutiny Panel 19 March 2008

<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>That everyone involved throughout this review be thanked for their contributions.</p>	<p>Contributors have been thanked.</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Regeneration, Housing and Development</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>That a newsletter be issued to every business on the council's procurement database, detailing support information that is available to small businesses.</p>	<p>A procurement newsletter for suppliers was issued with <i>Newsline</i> in September 2008. Future editions will be issued on a 6 monthly basis.</p>	<p>Strategic Procurement & VfM Manager</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>That a reminder be sent to all procurement managers that they have a duty under European Law to offer losing firms in tendering exercise a de-brief on why a contract was not won.</p>	<p>A reminder on the need to offer a debrief to unsuccessful tenderers was issued in July 2008 to all key procuring managers</p>	<p>Strategic Procurement & VfM Manager</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>That the creation of a new post or the creation of a focal point within the council's Regeneration Team be investigated, to specifically offer general advice, guidance and</p>	<p>There are no additional resources to create a new post specifically for small businesses and it is considered more effective if all economic development officers are aware and capable of responding to the specific needs of small businesses.</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Regeneration, Housing and Development</p>	<p>Implemented / Ongoing</p>

<p>signposting for all local small businesses.</p>	<p>The council is strengthening the Economic Development Team as its focus for small businesses.</p> <p>Advice and guidance specific to small businesses and SME's (Small and Medium Size enterprises) is published in 'Newslines' a council wide publication dedicated to local businesses. Economic Development staff are briefed on any specific new guidance relating to small businesses.</p> <p>The economic development team are working with the new business link service to improve business advice specifically to small businesses. The council has worked with Business Link and North Lincolnshire Developments / Bees Knees to create an office presence at Normanby Gateway to provide additional business support and advice. The office provides a physical presence in the area for Business Link Officers as well as for the council. A major</p>		
---	---	--	--

	<p>part of this work is supporting the growth and establishment of smaller 'lifestyle' businesses and is in the process of being marketed. The council is undertaking a business visits to local companies and small businesses and other awareness raising events with Business Link.</p> <p>The Economic Development Team provide bespoke support and events specifically for smaller businesses in the area and a number of events are planned including networking events to help local businesses tender for contracts and supply chain opportunities.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>That the council advertise and promote the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme and application process more widely across businesses in North Lincolnshire</p>	<p>The council is to promote the Small Business Rate Relief scheme through its next issue of 'Newslines' a dedicated business publication sent to North Lincolnshire businesses and companies.</p>	<p>Head of Strategic Regeneration, Housing and Development</p>	<p>October 2008</p>