

18th November 2014

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY

NBV BUSINESS START-UP SUPPORT CONTRACT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Committee with an update on the progress of the Business Start-Up Support programme, delivered by NBV Enterprise Solutions Ltd (NBV).

Background

2. NBV delivers business support in Nottinghamshire to clients under a number of schemes, however coverage of the county from existing schemes is not comprehensive and the County Council contract is designed to fill any gaps in provision, creating blanket coverage of free business advice and support for those wishing to start a business across Nottinghamshire. The Council's investment is currently focussed on Broxtowe, Gedling, Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe as the other three districts are eligible for start-up business support activity through a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project also run by NBV.
3. An initial £40,000 was made available to cover Phase 1 of the project from March 2013 to July 2013, with a further £45,000 available to cover the costs of Phase 2 over the remainder of the 2013-14 financial year subject to an interim review, which was successfully completed. In April 2014, this committee received a progress report on the NBV contract which was well received.
4. In May 2014, this Committee approved an extension to the project and allocated a further £55,000 for Business Start-Up Support in 2014/15 (Phase 3).
5. This report provides Committee with an update on the performance of Phase 3 of the project. During Committee, there will be an opportunity for Members to meet with some of the start-up businesses who have been supported by the NBV contract.

Progress To Date

6. Phase 3 of the project commenced in July 2014 and builds on the momentum created by the earlier phases. Delivery continues until March 2015 with final reporting of all outputs by the end of June 2015. Phase 3 is tasked to engage 229 people creating 93 start-ups and 93 jobs.

7. The performance to date is on target; at the end of September 85 people have been engaged, 55 businesses have started trading and 55 jobs have been created. It is likely therefore that the project will deliver the 93 start-up outputs by the end of June 2015.
8. Beyond June 2015, the Council is currently working with D2N2 and partners on specifications for the forthcoming D2N2 Growth Hub and activity that will be commissioned using the European Structural and Investment Fund resources (a later report at this meeting refers). Start-up business support activity will be one element of the wider business support offer that will be commissioned through D2N2 resources.

Businesses Assisted

9. NBV have reported that the biggest area of business starts are within the business services, creative and service activity sectors.
10. A number of businesses assisted by the project will be attending to meet with Members during Committee. We are awaiting confirmation on numbers but at the time of circulating this report, the following people will be present to showcase their businesses:
 - a. Liz Wibberley, 'Handsewn by Elizabeth', craft gifts for the home (Newark and Sherwood)
 - b. Marketa Blackham, 'HappyJoey Ltd t/a HappiJoey', footwear for infants and toddlers (Rushcliffe)
 - c. Dr Tina Holt, 'EcoHouseNet', energy reduction and energy utilisation in the home (Rushcliffe)
 - d. Robert Olifant, 'CATS': Cancer Alternative Therapy Support (Gedling)
 - e. Amy Topham, 'From the Heart Fashion', urban dance clothing (Broxtowe)
 - f. Sandra Hart, "I do" Weddings for You, wedding services (Gedling)
 - g. Veronica Cooksey, 'Jewelled Delite', bespoke jewellery design (Broxtowe)
 - h. Katrina Mallon, 'Peas and a Pod', ethically produced garments for babies and children (Rushcliffe)
 - i. Matthew Trickett, 'Nebula Professional', specialist IT recruitment (Broxtowe)
11. Members may find it interesting to speak directly with some of the businesses who have benefitted from the project to learn about their rationale for starting a business, their journey and future aspirations.

Reason for Recommendation

12. To inform the Committee of progress towards Phase 3 of the NBV Business Start-Up Support Contract and to enable Members to meet some of the businesses assisted.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service

users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. None

RECOMMENDATION/S

15. It is recommended that the Economic Development Committee notes the report.

Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy, Celia Morris

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Fiona Anderson – 0115 977 2688

Constitutional Comments

As this report is for noting only, constitutional comments are not required.

Financial Comments

As this report is for noting only, financial comments are not required.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Economic Development Committee report 1st April 2014

Economic Development Committee report 6th May 2014

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All