



Denham, Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date: 04/02/21

Organisation Name	Denham, Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts Community Board Business Forum
Project Name	Bucks Business First – Be your own boss
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£3,000.00
Amount of Match Funding	£0.00
Amount being applied for	£3,000.00
Amount suggested	£3,000.00

Project Summary

The Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) is a programme that has been created by Buckinghamshire Business First to support people thinking about starting their own business. The programme includes a 2-day hands-on (online) series of sessions from professional advisors from within the Buckinghamshire Business First organisation:

1. An Enterprise Day to answer questions and help people decide if running a business is right for them
2. Bespoke business support face-to-face, over the phone or by email (2 hr max)
3. A 2-day training course, that covers all of the topics relevant to a person wanting to start their own business, including:
 - i. creating a brand
 - ii. creating a business plan, product or service development
 - iii. marketing, sales and customer relations

Every year 500,000 new businesses are setup in the UK. As a result of Covid-19 a lot of people are finding themselves in the position of re-evaluating their employment, in particular, those who are currently furloughed and/or those who have been made redundant. Setting up a new business - ie. people becoming their own boss has been identified as an area of importance to these people.

However, many do not necessarily understand the requirements or implications of this and the BYOB course provides exactly the opportunity for any business ideas to be thoroughly examined to ensure that people are making the right decision.

How does the project address local priorities?

Covid Reset and Recovery, Equalities, Wellbeing

1. Covid-19 reset and recovery: by providing people with potentially new employment opportunities in what is now a very uncertain employment landscape.
2. Equalities: People should have choice as to how they work, be it an employee or self-employed person.
3. Wellbeing: Many people are much better suited to being self-employed/their own boss versus being employed by a company. Mental health/well-being is a highly important area for consideration in ensuring we have a healthy (mentally) workforce.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Strengthening our communities

Self employed people and small business are an important part of any community. Smaller business are proven to have a net positive affect on the areas/communities in which they are based, be it through employment, supporting and buying from other local business and being part of local community groups.

Increasing prosperity

The success of our local businesses is important to Buckinghamshire as a whole. The objective of BYOB Programme is to help people succeed in becoming their own boss. Those that do succeed as a result of having been through the programme will contribute towards the prosperity of the local area.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The £3,000 (inclusive of VAT) cover 12 places on the BYOB Programme at £250 per head. We would ask Board Members, and anyone they know to recommend suitable candidates for the programme.

Community Board Coordinator comments

This application has been discussed at the Board’s Business Forum on the 4 February 2021, where it was agreed to recommend that this application be approved.

- **It is recommended that members award Higher the Business Forum £3,000 to work with BBF on the Be Your Own Boss project.**

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.