

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Civic Offices Merrial Street Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 2AG

25 August 2014

Dear Sirs

## Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee

Further to your request for a report on the progress of our organisation we are pleased to enclose our Year 1 Action Plan and another document outlining our achievements since being incorporated in September 2013.

We feel we have achieved a great deal especially given our limited budget and resources, we have increased numbers at our meetings and have engaged with a wide array of other organisations in the locality. As you are aware we are working to an evolving business plan with clear goals and the board regularly review these goals are being met. We have also completed our initial cash flow forecast for our first year and again the board regularly review our progress and review our priorities.

We are aware you have expressed particular interest in our plans to strengthen our private sector membership and the leadership of the company. As you will see from the reports enclosed we are making every effort to engage with traders etc. to boost our membership, but we are still overcoming apathy in the town and we feel this may take some time. We would like to point out that whilst myself and Paul Waring are Councillors we also work in the private sector and Paul Waring has his own business near Kidsgrove and I offer expertise relevant to the company through my profession as an Architectural Technician. We are looking to increase the size of the board with more private sector members that can offer expertise relevant to the company such as Accountant, Architect, Communications and PR, Estate Agent, Human Resources, Insurance Broker etc. The board have also agreed that the role of Chair will be on an annual rotation.

I hope the enclosed reports and the above clarifies your concerns, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Elliot Ashton

Elliot Ashton Chair