



Sara Britcliffe MP
Member of Parliament for Hyndburn & Haslingden
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Tel: 020 7219 4836

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr. Miles Parkinson OBE
Scaitcliffe House
Ormerod St
Accrington
BB5 0PF

5th October 2020

Dear Miles,

Coronavirus has put a strain on this nation and has particularly effected businesses, jobs and livelihoods, nationally and in Hyndburn. I am very proud of our community, who have risen to the challenges facing them during this difficult time. As you know, the Government are working hard to stimulate economic investment across the country, and we need to be in position to capitalise.

New economic opportunities are now on offer and it is vital that we create an environment here in Hyndburn to support business prosperity, attract investment and develop the skills that our businesses need. Therefore, I believe it is necessary for Hyndburn council to create a position for an Economic Development Officer. This person would carry out several key functions including business engagement and support, build local networks, business communications, identify skill challenges and opportunities and work to deliver solutions. Furthering on from this, they would be responsible for developing local projects for business growth, bidding for local and national funding, setting up training schemes and promoting the local economic area.

Many other local councils already have an Economic Development Officer in place and from discussions that I have had, the role has been a very positive addition to the council. It is vital that Hyndburn council now invest in the future and build on our strengths, such as our brilliant businesses, entrepreneurs and our community spirit.

Whilst I understand that several officers across Hyndburn council work towards this common goal, I do believe that having one person dedicated to this role would be a much better use of the council's resources. After speaking to local businesses, I'm acutely aware that there is a gap which this role fills. Hyndburn, with our local community and businesses, has much untapped potential which we need to be acting upon now.

I would kindly appreciate that my request be handled with serious consideration as the potential benefits of acting now are numerous. I do look forward to hearing of developments on this matter and hope to hear a positive report soon.

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Yours sincerely,



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