



**Melton
Borough
Council**

Record of Cabinet Portfolio Holder Decision

Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

| | |
|--|---|
| Decision made by | Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity |
| Decision Title | Melton Borough Council – Tier 3 grants |
| Key decision? | Yes |
| Date of decision (same as date form signed) | 14 December 2020 |
| Name and job title of Officer requesting the decision | Lee Byrne – Regeneration Manager |
| Officer contact details | lbyrne@melton.gov.uk |
| Decision | <p>To approve Melton Borough Council’s approach as outlined below to delivering the grants available to businesses due to Melton Borough Area being within Tier 3 Restrictions</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Director for Growth and Regeneration to finalise and agree any changes required due to updates in national guidance that may be provided after this date, in consultation to the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity.</p> |
| Reason for Decision | <p>On 2nd December 2020 the Borough of Melton was placed into Tier 3 restrictions following the end of the national lockdown</p> <p>Due to this the National Government announced a additional grant fund support measures that Local Authorities would be responsible for giving out to their local business communities. Central to these new grant scheme were:</p> |

The Local Restrictions Support Grant (closed) which is available for those businesses who have been forced to close and that have a Rateable Value and **the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open)** which is available to those who have a rateable value, have not be forced to close but have been significantly impacted.

As well as this the LRSG (Closed – addendum) and Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) are still being made available to businesses in Melton which are yet to claim this support for the impact of the national lockdown. ARG funding is purely discretionary and receiving the grant through national lockdown does not guarantee it will be received during the period of time the area in in Tier 3 restrictions.

Guidance has been released on the eligibility of these new Tier 3 schemes and our proposals as to how to get this funding to businesses identified below takes this into consideration

For businesses who have already submitted applications to us for the national lockdown funding the Council will look to automatically provide Tier 3 grant funding, where eligibility permits through either the LRSG closed or open schemes. Emails will be sent to all applicants through the national scheme to confirm they are happy with their details being automatically rolled forward, they are still in compliance with state aid rules and their bank details are still correct. Once positive responses are received these payments will be processed.

Eligibility will be assessed by officers who have an in-depth understanding of existing guidance for Tier 3 grants. Once a decision has been made this grant will be allocated to the appropriate grant stream for every 14 day period the Melton Borough area is within a tier 3 restriction. (Details as to how this will be achieved can be found in appendix 1 – MBC Tier 3 grants note).

Aside from the approach to the transition between national lockdown and Tier 3 grants being outlined in Appendix 1 the following is

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>also identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is proposing to keep the grant funds open for the national scheme until informed of a deadline by national government. Any applications received, if eligible, will then be backdated to take into account the national lockdown and then also funded for the Tier 3 grants at the same time via the relevant LRSG funds. • The Council will look to support Businesses considered to be important to the local economy through allocating additional funding to support them through this time. This will be assessed on a case by case basis and will be determined aside from the standard grant allocation process. • A contribution towards loss of perishable stock will not be made for the duration the area is in Tier 3 restrictions • The wet pubs grant scheme will be dealt with as a separate grant fund and eligible businesses will be approached directly by the Council |
| <p>Alternative options rejected</p> | <p>Ask businesses to resubmit an application form for the new grants schemes – REJECTED. This option would required a huge undertaking of data input, assessment and verification despite this only having taken place at most 4 weeks ago for businesses in the area. This would also delay the businesses receiving the grants in a timely manner and cause undue hardship during the Xmas period.</p> |
| <p>Legal implications</p> | <p>The Council has the power to award grants to organisations using its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. In exercising the power the Council must satisfy its public law duties. In essence this means that in making the decision the Council must have taken into account only relevant considerations, followed procedural requirements, acted for proper motives and not acted unreasonably.</p> <p>The Council will need to ensure the eligibility criteria is formulated, applied and met consistently to all grants in line with Government Guidance.</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | <p>As the Key Decision has not been published on the Forward Plan, a General Exception Notice has been published and agreed by the Chair of Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules.</p> | | | |
| <p>Financial implications</p> | <p>The Council has received an allocation of funding for the Tier 3 grants which is yet to be determined. National Government has assessed all the businesses they believe will be eligible in the area and therefore it is not expected that this funding will be exceeded. Regular returns will be submitted to government setting out actual costs incurred.</p> <p>In regards to the ARG funding once the funding has run out the Council will decide how best to allocate the remaining funding to support its local businesses as allowed in the guidance.</p> <p>There may be some financial impact in regards to potential overtime payment to officers to deliver the scheme or additional temporary resources. This will be charged to the Covid-19 costs which are being regularly monitored. The Government has indicated there will be an additional new burdens grant allocated to councils to cover the costs of implementation of this grant but the level of this at present is unknown.</p> <p>The Council will be working with its Audit team to undertaken antifraud checks on the applicant information received through this scheme. It is expected this cost of this in relation to the LRSG and ARG scheme will be no more than £1000 and this will also be allocated to the Covid-19 budget once it has been incurred</p> | | | |
| <p>Other implications</p> | <p>None</p> | | | |
| <p>Background papers considered</p> | <p>Appendix 1 – transition between national lockdown and Tier 3 grants</p> | | | |
| <p>Declarations/conflict of interest?</p> | <p>N/A</p> | | | |
| <p>List consultees</p> | | <p>Name</p> | <p>Outcome</p> | <p>Date</p> |
| | <p>Ward Councillors</p> | <p>n/a</p> | <p>n/a</p> | <p>n/a</p> |
| | <p>Legal</p> | <p>Kieran</p> | <p>See</p> | <p>10 Dec</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | | Stockley | above | 2020 |
| | Finance | Dawn Garton | See above | 10 Dec 2020 |
| | Human Resources | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Equalities | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Communications | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Confidential Decision? | No | | | |
| Call In Waived by Scrutiny Committee Chair? | Yes | | | |
| Has this been discussed by Cabinet Members? | Yes | | | |
| Cabinet Portfolio Holder Signature | Councillor Leigh Higgins Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity (Deputy Leader) 14 December 2020 | | | |

ONCE SIGNED, THIS FORM MUST BE HANDED TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IMMEDIATELY.

| FOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES USE ONLY | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Form Received | 14 December 2020 | |
| Date published to all Councillors | 15 December 2020 | |
| Call In Deadline | N/A | |