



RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION (OFFICER)

1. Decision Reference No.	CEX 482
2. Name/Title of Officer	Lydia Rusling Director for Place and Prosperity
3. Email address of Officer	lrusling@melton.gov.uk
4. Title / Subject Matter:	Approval of grants in line with Business & Community Grants Guidance Notes and UKSPF Investment Plan, Guidelines & Criteria – financial year 2024-25.
5. Type of Decision: (The decision will be published in its entirety unless it contains exempt information as described in Section 1.4 of the Council's Access to Information Rules)	Key
6. Key Decision?	Yes - Expenditure or income > £50,000.
7. Decision Taken: 1. For Melton Borough Council to award a total of £333,935.00 in support of the delivery of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) & Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) in respect of 29 business grants (£180,114.00) and 19 community grants (£153,821.00) in accordance with Appendix 1. 2. For grants to be paid in line with UKSPF Investment Plan, UKSPF Business Grant Guidance Note (Round 2) & UKSPF Capital Community Grants Guidance Note.	
3. Reasons for Decision: The Council received UK SPF & REPF funding after an invitation was extended to relevant authorities to apply for this funding by the UK Government. MBC will utilise this funding to provide grants to local businesses and community groups for a variety of eligible projects. Business and community grants were agreed as part of the successful submission of the UKSPF Investment Plan which was approved by Cabinet on the 08 March 2023 (CA81). Authority was also delegated to make amendments to the plan as required. The grants will enable local enterprises and community groups to deliver a variety of projects to support the key UKSPF Themes of Community & Place and Supporting Local Businesses. Grants have been awarded in line with government and Council policies and procedures which have	

been formally adopted. Both schemes were open to eligible businesses and organisations within the borough. Both grant funds were of a competitive nature with the value of the ask of all applications being in excess of the money available to award through each scheme.

Due to this competitive nature of the grant schemes applications were assessed and scored against a series of predetermined criteria. This approach was then presented, and sense checked by a Grant Panel of sector specialists and Members to ensure compliance and fairness in the awarding and assessment process. The Grant Panel have agreed and ratified the applications for award to the Council. After a period of review and discussion, the applications that received the highest scores were awarded the grant funding.

Timely award of the grants is important to ensure successful applicants are able to commence projects and action spend to meet the deadlines imposed by Government.

The business grants ranged from £2,000 to £10,000 and the community grants were open to applications up to £20,000.

4. Authority / Legal Power:

On 8 March 2023, Cabinet approved the following recommendation:

Delegated authority to the Interim Director for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity, to authorise spend and undertake decisions, approvals and awards of contract that ensure continued delivery of the UKSPF programme in line with the Investment Plan. This is to include, not only council led projects, but also where funding needs to be released for delivery by a third party (via grants, commissioning, procurement of services etc).

Authority was also delegated at the same meeting to the Director for Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make amendments to the plan as required.

Policies for both the Business Grants and Communities Grants were developed, approved and implemented and provided a framework for determining the grants by a panel.

This decision provides a record of each grant with the scheme in general having already been approved previously.

Since the Cabinet meeting, the title for the Director for Growth and Regeneration has been changed to the Director for Place and Prosperity.

5. Background Papers attached?

Yes

6. Alternative options available / rejected:

1. Do not award grants. However, budget allocation of grants has been approved and delegated authority in place to award both grant schemes. All successful grant awards meet the criteria set in the Guidance Notes.
2. To delay award of business grants and community grants. However, this would negatively impact on the ability for successful applicants to plan for, prepare, and commence proposed projects. Hence, UKSPF deadlines would also be at risk, and this could result in UKSPF sanctions being imposed.

7. Implications:

<p>Legal</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.</p> <p>In exercising this power, the Council must satisfy its public law duties. In essence this means that in making the decision the Council must have considered only relevant considerations, followed procedural requirements, acted for proper motives, and not acted unreasonably.</p> <p>The Council has adopted policies for both Business Grants and Community Grants for this programme and the awards should be in line with the respective guidance.</p> <p>[Legal Approval - date 9th January 2025]</p>
<p>Finance</p>	<p>The grant awards are in line with the award criteria and been through a thorough evaluation process.</p> <p>The amounts being awarded are within the overall UKSPF grant funded envelope.</p> <p>[Finance Approval - date 17th December 2024]</p>
<p>HR</p>	<p>There are no HR implications as a result of this decision.</p> <p>[HR & Communications Approval – 19 December 2024]</p>

8. APPROVAL/SIGN OFF (Do not complete until all implications signed off at Section 12)

<p>Signature of Decision Maker with authority to sign (See Section 9):</p>	<p>Lydia Rusling Director for Place and Prosperity</p>
<p>Consultation with:</p>	<p>Cllr Pip Allnatt Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing & Landlord Services</p>
<p>Date:</p>	<p>13 January 2025</p>

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