

# PEOPLE COMMITTEE

19 MARCH 2019

## REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### COMMUNITY GRANTS REVIEW

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the concept of adopting a new policy for considering community grants in future years.

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members to approve an initial consultation on future Community Grants Policy to take place in May/June 2019.**
- 2.2 **Members to note to a further report will be brought back to members in the new Council year to consider the results of the consultation and any proposed changes to the existing Policy.**

#### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Community Grants funding budget has been allocated for the 2019/20 financial year. Elected Members have been involved in the decision making process regarding the allocation of grants as the Council continues to face ongoing budget pressures. The 2019/20 Community Grant funding allocation is set at £43,000 with no current plans to change this for 2020/21.
- 3.2 The decision making process used by the Council during the recent funding review has highlighted the lack of clear demonstrable linkage to the Council's Corporate Plan and key priorities.
- 3.3 To ensure Melton Borough Council (MBC) receives maximum social value for its residents, it is felt that a new approach is required for how this money is to be spent in the future. A review of how this is achieved is long overdue.
- 3.4 The Council's corporate people priorities are currently based around:
1. Helping people fulfil their potential and achieve their ambitions;
  2. Working with our partners to address vulnerability and tackle the root causes of social problems;
  3. Building safe, happy and healthy communities;
  4. Focussing on our priority neighbourhoods, supporting people to overcome disadvantage and live well independently.

3.5 An outline of the principles that will shape the consultation questions are as follows:

- Inform stakeholders what the current process and value of community grants budget is and the rationale for change – Agree/Disagree;
- Inform stakeholders of the corporate priorities and evidence-based social value principles that will shape the proposed criteria for the bidding process – Agree/Disagree;
- Invite opinions on allocating/reviewing grants on an annual basis or the option to commit to longer term arrangement – up to 3 years - and the rationale for the preferred choice (subject always to budget availability);
- Invite opinions on the proposal to link applications for funding to fundraising activity including engagement with the Melton Community Lottery;
- Invite opinions on the potential to add value to the funding, such as through achievement of external match funding, partnership activity or additional volunteer hours;
- Inform rationale for providing evidence of financial accounts along with a breakdown of how the funding will be spent – Agree disagree.

This list is not exhaustive.

3.6 The outcome of the consultation will inform the process used which in turn will allow officers to make informed decisions when looking at future grants allocations.

3.7 It is not envisaged that grants will be automatically renewed each year as they have been previously. However, we do recognise that organisations may need to look for some certainty in their funding over the medium term and we will look to develop our thinking around this as part of the consultation process. We will also want to explore how we can best maximise the value of this £43k budget, such as for example attracting additional volunteer capacity or attracting external match funded cash investment.

3.8 When the consultation has completed we will bring a report back with firm recommendations which will include an implementation timetable that will provide clear information regarding any new process.

3.9 As well as consultation with voluntary and community sector organisations we will also seek views of other key partners interested in these outcomes.

#### **4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This proposal is linked to the Council's Corporate Priorities and specifically to its People priority around working with our Partners to address vulnerability and tackle the root causes of social problems, building safe, happy and healthy communities.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Recognising the pressures of diminishing resources, it is vital that the Council gets maximum value from the money that is available to support the voluntary and community sector.

**6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the contents of this report but it is envisaged that legal support will be required in the creation of a new policy.

**7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 A robust process of allocating grants against the Council’s priorities can only serve to reap benefits across all areas including community safety.

**8.0 EQUALITIES**

8.1 An equality impact assessment will need to be completed when drawing up the policy but again, it is envisaged a fair and transparent process will ensure the Council gives due regard to equalities considerations as part of the process and is consistent in its approach

**9.0 RISKS**

9.1

<b>L I K E L I H O O D</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Very High</b>				
	<b>B</b>	<b>High</b>				
	<b>C</b>	<b>Significant</b>			<b>2</b>	
	<b>D</b>	<b>Low</b>		<b>1</b>		
	<b>E</b>	<b>Very Low</b>				
	<b>F</b>	<b>Almost Impossible</b>				
			<b>Negligible 1</b>	<b>Marginal 2</b>	<b>Critical 3</b>	<b>Catastrophic 4</b>

<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>
<b>1</b>	Community Groups eligible for funding may lack the expertise to put forward a strong bid.
<b>2</b>	Public and media backlash as a result of funding being withdrawn from longstanding and existing groups

**10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 No issues relating to climate change.

## 11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 This is just a consultation exercise at this point in time.

## 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All Wards affected

Contact Officer        Aysha Rahman and Ryan Ebdale

Date:                    19 March, 2019

Appendices :         None

Background Papers:   Any documents that inform the report must be listed  
Any document listed must be available should a member of the public ask to see it

Reference :            X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\People Committee\2018-19\5 190319