



Melton
Borough
Council

General Exception Notice

Pursuant to the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 Notice of Key Decision

Decision to be taken and by whom

Approval of Policy on Eligibility Criteria for Award of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Business Support Grants - Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity

Reasons why this is Key Decision

The decision is likely to result in the Council distributing additional grant funding with a value of £50,000 or more through the nationally allocated COVID-19 grant schemes through use of its local discretions.

Why was not included in the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions and why it would not be practicable to defer the decision

Eligibility for the government grants released in response to the impact of the COVID-19 response is awarded to those hereditaments which were eligible to small business rates relief; rural rate relief or the extended retail rate relief on 11/03/2020 (The date the schemes were announced in the budget).

There have been a number of issues that businesses have raised regarding their eligibility and the award of the grant. In order to support as many businesses as possible through this difficult period, the Council has decided to apply some flexibility with regard to satisfaction of the criteria in relation to occupation of premises and registration on the ratings list for the Melton area.

A policy will be created to ensure that there is consistency and transparency with regard to the Council's application of the eligibility criteria and the way in which are grants are subsequently awarded.

It is important that the grants are released to eligible businesses without delay and therefore it is not possible to provide the required 28 days notice of a Key Decision.

List of documents submitted to the decision-maker

Portfolio Holder Decision Notice
Policy on Eligibility Criteria
Urgency Notice

Part of the Constitution authorising the decision

The Portfolio Holder is authorised to make the decision under the Cabinet Scheme of Delegation.

Rule 2.4 (General Exception) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Chapter Three –Procedure Rules)

In accordance with those rules it is confirmed that:

- Notice in writing has been provided to the Chair of Scrutiny Committee.
- Copies of this notice have been made available to the public at the Council Offices and on the Council's website; and
- The decision will not be made until at least 5 clear days have elapsed since the above bullet points were complied with.

Notice must be given in the first instance to the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.

The General Exception procedure allows a Key Decision which has been omitted from the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions to be taken, provided 5 clear days has elapsed between informing the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and making a copy of this notice available to the public (on the website and displayed in the Council Offices and the decision being taken.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of, or extracts from, documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the decision may be requested from the address given below. In addition, the public may submit other documents relevant to the decision to the same address.