



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	Leigh Higgins – Portfolio Holder for growth and prosperity
Decision Title	Coronavirus – Implementation of Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund
Key decision?	Yes
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	18 June 2020
Name and job title of Officer requesting the decision	Lee Byrne – Regeneration Manager
Officer contact details	Lbyrne@melton.gov.uk
Decision	<p>To note that payments shall be delivered to businesses as per the attachment (at Appendix A) in accordance within the approved Discretionary Grant Fund Scheme Policy</p> <p>To note that the Director for Growth and Regeneration will use her delegated authority in consultation to the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity to update the Procedural notes to include businesses not originally given priority under the first round of this scheme</p>
Reason for Decision	<p>The Council has been allocated up to £575,000 from Central Government through the Local Authority Discretionary grant fund to support those businesses that have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Following the launch of the scheme on the 27th May for a 2 week period till the 10th June 143 applications have been received. These applications have been assessed and the details</p>

	<p>of the Local Authority discretionary grant fund policy and procedural notes applied to inform the grant amount allocated. As identified in Appendix 1</p> <p>These amounts have been agreed by a grant panel consisting of 3 officers from the Local Authority. The grant allocations conform with all expectations as laid out in the associated government guidance.</p> <p>A total of circa £457,000 has been allocated through this round with approximately £118,000 still left to be allocated.</p> <p>Due to this the Council has taken the decision to open up for a second round of funding for those businesses who were not originally prioritised in the first round of the scheme</p>
<p>Alternative options rejected</p>	<p>Do nothing – this was rejected as this would have meant that the £575k allocation would remain unspent and many businesses in need of support within the Melton Borough area would not have been able to receive it.</p> <p>Allocate all funding through the first round – this was rejected as it was felt by the grant panel that of the applications received the amount of funding allocated was a fair and proportionate and in adherence with the associated policy and procedural note. It was also acknowledged that there are still many businesses in Melton who are in need or support through these tough times so opening a second round of the scheme targeted at those who have been unable to access grant support so far would be of benefit to the local economy</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>Taking decisions outside of Policy/Guidance may result in financial implications for the Council.</p>			
Financial implications	<p>The Government has allocated Melton Borough Council a total sum of £575,000 to provide business support as part of a local authority discretionary scheme.</p> <p>Based on the policy in App A, a total of circa £457,000 has been allocated through this round with approximately £118,000 still left to be allocated.</p> <p>The council still has money remaining from the £11.7m government grant scheme for business support and will use this money initially to fund this scheme in accordance with government guidance. Therefore, there are no cash flow implications associated with making these payments.</p> <p>There is the risk of clawback by the government if the national criteria is not met or in instances of fraud if appropriate due diligence is not undertaken. To mitigate this a number of checks have been undertaken to ensure eligibility and also internal audit are supporting on meeting the governments assurance criteria.</p>			
Other implications	None			
Background papers considered	<p>Appendix 1 – Grant allocation spreadsheet (Exempt)</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Local Authority discretionary grant scheme Policy</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Local Authority Discretionary grant scheme procedural note.</p>			
Declarations/conflict of interest?	None			
List consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Ward Councillors			
	Legal	Adele Wylie	Comments included	19/06/20
	Finance	David	Comments	19/06/20

		Scott	included	
	Human Resources	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Equalities	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Communications			
Confidential Decision?	Yes			
Call In Waived by Scrutiny Committee Chair?				
Has this been discussed by Cabinet Members?				
Cabinet Portfolio Holder Signature Signature Date			

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

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Form Received		
Date published to all Councillors		
Call In Deadline		