



**Melton
Borough
Council**

UKSPF / REPF Community Grant (Capital Grants)

APPLICANT GUIDANCE NOTE

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1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund

- 1.1 On 13 April 2022, the Government announced the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\)](#), which was a national non-competitive fund that allowed Local Authority areas to submit Investment Plans to national government to put a case forward as to how their share of funding would be used to enhance the local area. Following significant consultation with partners and stakeholders, The Council was successful in obtaining £1.19m on 16 December 2022. A further £400k was successfully obtained following the successful submission of a REPF addendum to national government.
- 1.2 Up to £135,000 has been set aside for **capital** community grants, whilst the remaining funding will support interventions relating to business support, skills development, town centre projects and supporting people and communities in our rural localities.
- 1.3 The UKSPF and REPF fund for the Melton Borough area is being managed by Melton Borough Council. The Council, as the accountable body, must follow the guidance set by the Government and is responsible for ensuring value for money.

2. Total Funding Available

- 2.1 The total pot of capital funding for 23/24 is £135,000. This is a one-off grant.
- There is no minimum grant amount for this scheme.
- The maximum grant available for each project is £20,000. In exceptional circumstances, a higher grant award may be considered, at the discretion of the grant approval panel.
- Consideration will be given to value for money in the assessment process.

3. Objectives

- 3.1 The Council is focussing on the following priorities through this grant fund:
- Capital grant funding for creation and improvements to local rural green spaces.
 - Capital grant funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.

The **types** of projects that can be funded from this grant are shown below:

- a. Capital grants for provision of net zero infrastructure for rural communities and to support rural tourism activity, for example: EV charging points; community energy schemes such as scaled up biomass, heat pumps or solar.
- b. Funding for resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.
- c. Establish or enhance rural green and blue infrastructure including community gardens; green spaces; watercourses and embankments; greening of streets and paths; incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
- d. Develop, restore or refurbish local natural, cultural and heritage assets and sites.
- e. Local art galleries, museums and libraries for altering premises or providing spaces for exhibitions to support displays for artists to showcase work.
- f. Creation of new footpaths and cycle paths, particularly in areas of health need.
- g. Enable setting up or enhancement of rural community-led repair cafes or mend workshops. This includes provision of premises, tools or equipment.
- h. To enable people to develop volunteering and social action projects locally.
- i. For provision of gigabit capable digital infrastructure at rural hubs for community use, for example: village halls, pubs and post offices

Applications will be required to demonstrate how they can achieve one or more of the outputs shown below:

- Improved perception of facility or infrastructure project,
- Improved perception of facilities or amenities,
- Improved perceived or experienced accessibility,
- Increased footfall,
- Increased visitor numbers,
- Improved engagement numbers,
- Improved perception of local facilities or amenities,
- Increase in volunteering numbers as a result of support.

4. Who will be eligible to apply?

- 4.1 To be eligible to apply for a grant through this scheme applicants must be charities, community interest companies, social enterprises, local authorities, parish councils and constituted community and voluntary groups.

Applications from private sector companies will also be considered, where the project can demonstrate a considerable community benefit.

The organisation or project must carry out community focussed activities which benefit the Melton Borough.

The organisation to which the application relates should be inclusive. However, exemptions can be applied for specific projects or services which cater for under-represented groups or those with protected characteristics.

The purpose to which the grant is to be applied must not relate to promoting religious belief or party-political activities. However:

- Religious Organisations and Festival Projects provided by religious organisations will be considered for funding if they are providing a relevant service to the community. Religious festivals that demonstrate cultural diversity and are open to other communities in order to bring a 'shared experience' will also be eligible for funding. Requests for funding to promote religious beliefs will not be granted.
- Project Requests from political organisations or those which are of a purely social nature fall outside the scope of Community Grants.

4.2 The grant funding criteria does not permit the council to provide funding to projects that have received funding from the following DEFRA funded schemes:

- [The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme](#)
- [The Farming Investment Fund](#)
- [The Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund](#)

4.3 **Important: This funding is for** Capital Grants¹. It cannot be used for revenue costs such as running costs, wages, debt repayments, personal items, etc.

If you have a great idea for a community project but are not sure if it is eligible, please contact communitygrants@melton.gov.uk.

5. Application Process and Timescale

5.1 The council invites applications via its website to complete the application form. Once completed please email to communitygrants@melton.gov.uk

5.2 The capital grant scheme timetable is set out below:

- Grant funding round open for applications: 9th October (4 weeks)
- Application sift to determine eligibility with grant criteria November 2023
- Grant approval panel consideration: December 2023

¹ A **sum of money** given by a government to an organisation to buy buildings, land, equipment (not vehicles), etc or to make improvements to them. Examples of capital grant spending can be found on the [Government website](#).

- Decision making and grant award (notification to applicants): January / February 2024
- Grant payments: No later than 31st March 2024

5.3 For successful applications, the council will undertake post project monitoring and evaluation to ensure the expected deliverables (what the grant was for), have been secured. By signing the Grant Agreement and receiving the grant, the applicant confirms they are willing to engage in this process and provide any information required by the council, stated in the agreement. Failure to do so may lead to the Council clawing back funding.

5.4 There will be no automatic right of appeal against a decision not to award a grant, or against the value of any grant.

6. Managing the Risk of Fraud

6.1 The Council and the Government will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud. Any business or person caught falsifying their records or the information submitted to gain a grant award will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to clawback, as may any grants paid in error.

6.2 The Council also reserves the right to use any details submitted by organisations to check against national records and databases to highlight potentially fraudulent activity.

7. Guidance Note Review

7.1 This Guidance Note has been written in line with Government guidance. It will be subject to dynamic review as circumstances dictate and in line with future clarifications and changes that may be announced by the Government or following internal recommendations made by the Council.