Melton Borough Council

Helping people | Shaping places

Community Grants

Authors:	Ryan Ebdale, Aysha Rahman
Owner:	Ryan Ebdale, Aysha Rahman
Version No:	2
Date:	October 2022

Version No	Version Date	Authors	Summary of Changes
1.0	October 2019	Ryan Ebdale, Aysha Rahman	Full review of policy & process
1.1	October 2020	Ryan Ebdale	Policy Approval Officer Level Corporate Priorities
2	October 2022	Ryan Ebdale	Policy Approval Officer Level Corporate Priorities

Approvals

Name	Title	Date of Approval	Version No
Cabinet		30.10.19	1.0

Distribution

Title	Date of Issue	Version No

Policy Information

Author / Directorate	Ryan Ebdale, Aysha Rahman, People & Communities
External Consultation	Community Grants Public Consultation completed
Internal Consultation	People Manager, Portfolio Holder, Scrutiny Committee, Senior Leadership Team, Cabinet
Policy Approval Officer Level Policy Approval, Member Level	Michelle Howard, Director for Housing and Communities Cabinet
Policy Review Date	Full Review – October 2023

Contents

Approvals 1

Distribution 1

Policy Information 2

1.0 Overview 4

2.0 Eligibility 4

3.0 Assessment Criteria 5

3.1 The Criteria 5

3.2 Performance Monitoring 5

3.3 Other Considerations 6

3.4 Melton Community Lottery 6

4.0 How to apply for funding 6

Appendix A – Cross Partnership Outcomes Framework 8

1.0 Overview

Melton Borough Council (MBC) recognises the value and contribution of its Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Partners in supporting a diverse population with increasingly complex socio-economic needs. The Council wishes to continue promoting and supporting local projects and services in an effective, local and community-led manner as an alternative to direct provision by the Council.

An extensive public and internal consultation demonstrated overwhelming support for a new way of allocating Community Grants that is based on receiving maximum social value for the residents of Melton through a more commission-based approach in line with the following principles:

- A clear contribution to one or more of the Council's Corporate Priorities and/or aligns with the council's values and strategic objectives .[1]
- Demonstration of value-added self-help activities such as volunteer resources, match funding and active engagement with the Melton Community Lottery
- A breakdown of how the money will be spent and considerations for long term sustainability.
- Monitoring of performance against the long term aspirations of Melton's Strategic Objectives

Community Grants can provide funding to deliver projects and services within the Melton Borough which demonstrate community benefit. Applications to deliver specific projects are encouraged and therefore organisations may submit more than one application per year or to more than one grant funding round.

2.0 Eligibility

Applications must be submitted by constituted community and voluntary groups for activities not conducted for profit.

1. The organisation or project must be Melton based or carry out activities which benefit the Melton Borough.
2. 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.
3. The purpose to which the grant is to be applied must not relate to promoting religious belief or party political activities. However:
    a) 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.
    b) Project Requests from political organisations fall outside the scope of Community Grants.

[1] The Council's current People Priorities are:
i) Excellent Services positively impacting on our communities.

3.0 Assessment Criteria

The Council needs to ensure that the public money it spends is used effectively. This includes monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of grant funding and partnership working. Therefore, the Council needs to ensure that Community Grants are contributing to delivering against its corporate priorities and achieving value for money.

3.1 The Criteria

Applications will be assessed and weighted against the demonstration of the following criteria:

i. A clear contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities and/or Strategic Objectives
ii. Value added self help activities such as volunteer resources, match funding and active engagement with the Melton Community Lottery.
iii. A breakdown of how the money will be spent and considerations for long term sustainability.
iv. The Council may administer a range of grant funding rounds with specific criteria and funding thresholds applied.

3.2 Performance Monitoring

Outcomes will be monitored against the Councils long term aspirations and Strategic Objectives. The outcome-based framework developed by the People Board, attached as Appendix A provides examples of the areas in which projects could be targeted.

As the framework defines success indicators across a whole life course approach, the Council has identified the following top five performance priorities from this framework that will attract a higher weighting during the decision making process.

i. Good physical and Mental Health; (low levels of obesity, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy; reduced intergenerational dependence on state support; less involvement in criminal activity)

ii. Financial Independence

iii. Effective parent/child relationships; (ready for parenthood; good parenting skills; aspirations for own children, able to deal with challenges in family & other relationships)

iv. Digitally and socially independent and responsible; (maintaining social relationships)

v. Sound aspirations; (career planning; ability to get a home; getting on the property ladder)

A stronger emphasis is placed on outcomes and partnerships as opposed to targets to break the cycle of silo working, competing organisational priorities and ensure smaller community organisations are not disadvantaged.

The Council commit to promote and celebrate the achievements and outcomes of our grant recipients through liaison and contact throughout the duration of the project. We will provide support and guidance where necessary in order to ensure that the funding is maximised to make the projects a success.

3.3 Other Considerations

When completing the Community Grants application, organisations should also consider the following:

- How does your project promote stronger, cohesive and balanced communities?
- How does your project promote well-supported volunteering opportunities?
- How does your project reduce the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour?
- How does your project improve the quality of life of people living in priority neighbourhoods?
- How does your project improve the well-being of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs?
- How does your project enable children, young people and older people to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live?
- How does your project enable older people to live independent lives?
- How does your project promote access of local people to green spaces and the countryside?
- How does your project help promote local businesses to prosper and develop vibrant towns and villages and support rural enterprise?
- How does your project address the impact of emerging issues such as cost of living crisis, health inequalities, deprivation etc?

3.4 Melton Community Lottery

Running in conjunction with the Community Grants budget, Melton Community Lottery is in place to provide further opportunities for organisations to raise additional funds. The Council has been developing an ethos of creating independence within our community so people are less dependent on welfare services – this also extends to community groups to allow them to run and manage projects themselves without the need for Council intervention. The community lottery aims to give a financial tool in order to try and achieve this.

The main objectives of the community lottery are;

i. Community Organisations can raise money to support their initiatives
ii. The Council can manage the need to reduce ongoing financial support to the voluntary sector and generate additional support for cultural activities and if it wishes other services the community value but may be at risk as appropriate
iii. Create an opportunity that, in the future, if services need to be reduced which support the voluntary sector, income generated from the lottery may cushion the financial impact if they engage with the lottery.

Melton Community Lottery: Easy online fundraising for good causes - Melton Community Lottery (meltonlottery.co.uk)

4.0 How to apply for funding

Our core grant funding will be administered through an annual bidding cycle that will open in October/November each year with a 10 week window for applications to be submitted.

You can complete the application form which can be downloaded using the link on our website. Enclose an outline of the project noting the links to the criteria set out above. The deadline for receipt of applications will be updated on the application form for each financial year.

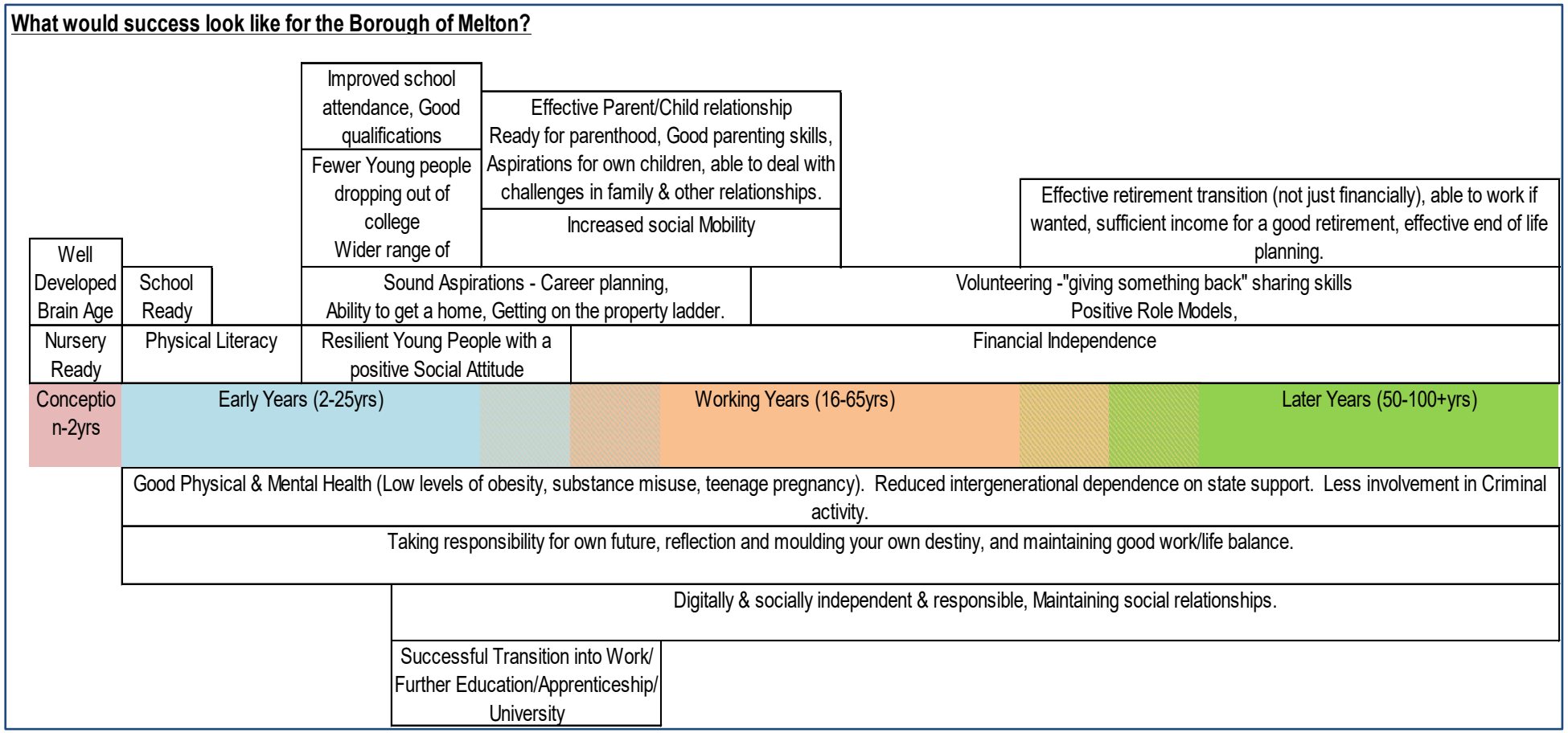
A panel will review the applications using the assessment criteria and the successful organisation(s) will be notified after the recommended grant allocations have been approved by Cabinet.

Funding will usually be for 12 months only (payable from 1st April) and a payment structure may be considered should this be necessary. There may be the possibility for a longer term arrangement should this be deemed beneficial for certain projects to be successful.

Melton Borough Council will also work with organisations throughout the year to identify alternative &/or other appropriate funding sources.

From time to time the Council may administer additional grant funding rounds that will be allocated within the principles of the policy. These opportunities will be promoted through the appropriate communication channels.

Appendix A – Cross Partnership Outcomes Framework



This outcomes framework was developed by the Melton People Board to illustrate success indicators using a life course approach. It demonstrates a series of outcomes from pre birth to death that, if achieved, would show what success would look like over the longer term.

See 3.3 Performance Monitoring for the top five performance priorities for Melton.