

Strategic Grants Review 2021 - Guidelines

Mid Devon District Council values the role of the community and voluntary sector in meeting the needs of residents and visitors to Mid Devon, providing key services to the community, and helping to deliver the Council's Corporate Objectives.

In order to maintain accountability to its ratepayers, the Council undertakes a periodic review of its strategic grants to ensure that funding is used in the most appropriate and beneficial way. The purpose of the Strategic Grants Review is:

- To ensure that the Council's investment in strategic partners is directed appropriately to meet the needs of residents and support the Council's own priorities as expressed in its Corporate Plan
- To ensure that funding achieves real outcomes for the community and value for money for taxpayers
- To report back to members on what has been achieved with the previous year's funding

The review also provides an opportunity for strategic partners to discuss with members the emerging needs, challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

The Council, as a responsible funder, also needs to make strategic partners aware of the financial pressures that the Council is facing. The Council is expecting to have to reduce its overall budget by 8-10% this coming financial year, and may have to reduce funding to strategic partners in line with reductions in other services. Therefore, as part of the review, the Council seeks organisations' views on:

- The effect of potential reductions in grant levels of 5%, 10% or 20%
- The appropriateness of a one, two or three year funding settlement.

As laid out in a report to the Community Policy Development Group on Tuesday 21st September ([Strategic Grants Review](#)), the grants review will take the form of a written submission and presentation to the Strategic Grants Working Group.

Written submission - Deadline: 12 noon, Monday 25th October

The intention of the written submission is to provide a summary for Councillors of the main purpose and activities of the organisation, and the value of its services to the district.

Written submissions should be no more than 2 sides of A4 and should address the following:

Contents of written submissions

- A) Organisational Aim and Objectives
- B) Services Provided
- C) Benefits to Mid Devon residents and visitors
- D) Performance Indicators (*in whatever form you normally present them*)

E) How do your services meet the priorities of the Council as laid out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24, or other MDDC service requirements? (link to [MDDC Corporate Plan 2020-24](#))

F) Financial Information - Please fill in the table below for the last three financial years, and projected figures for 21-22

	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22 (projected)
Income				
Expenditure				
Funds Carried Forward				
Of which:				
Unrestricted				
Designated				
Restricted				
MDDC Grant				
MDDC Grant as a proportion of total income (%)				

G) Key Issues facing the organisation (*including any financial pressures, pressure on services, pressures on staffing capacity, changing needs in the community etc.*)

H) What would be the effect of a reduction in funding of 5%, 10% or 20% respectively on the organisation and the level of service provision, and its impact on residents? (*For each level of reduction, please separately note any potential impact on the organisation, on services and the impact on residents*)

Effect of a 5% reduction

Effect of a 10% reduction

Effect of a 20% reduction

I) What is your view on the appropriateness of a one, two or three year grant settlement?

Supporting Documents

Please include with the written submission (where available):

- Most recent annual report
- Most recent audited accounts
- Business Plan (or other strategic document) covering period 2022-23
- Budget forecast covering period 2022-23

Submission

Submissions should be emailed to jbodleyscott@middevon.gov.uk with the title in the subject line - **Strategic Grants Review** - together with any supporting documents, by no later than noon on Monday 25th October 2021.

Presentation to Members of the Working Group

As part of the review process you will be invited to attend one of two meetings of the Grants Working Group, on either the Thursday 18th November or Friday 19th November, to present to the group. There will be 25 minutes allotted for each organisation, which includes time for

- 10 minutes presentation
- 10 minutes for Q&A
- With 5 minutes for overruns

Your presentation should cover:

- Work of the organisation
- Impact of the pandemic on the organisation and the needs of your clients
- Key Issues for the organisation going forward – including any future plans / opportunities / challenges

The working group will have been provided with your two page written submission and supporting documents before the meeting. The grants working group will consist of the following Councillors:

Cllr Mrs Margaret Squires
 Cllr Les Cruwys
 Cllr Ben Holdman
 Cllr Wally Burke
 Cllr Dennis Knowles

All meetings will be virtual (Zoom). If you choose to provide a powerpoint or other electronic presentation, please can you make sure that you have sent a copy before the meeting so the committee clerk can have it set up on the Council's servers. This should avoid any difficulties with live streaming during the meeting.

Grants Review Timetable

	VCSE Actions
21 st Sep	MDDC Community PDG
w/b 27 th Sep	Email to Strategic Partners detailing framework for the Grants Review
Mon 25 th Oct	Deadline for written submissions
Thu 18 th Nov	Presentation to Grants Working Group - 4 strategic organisations
Fri 19 th Nov	Presentations to Grants Working Group - 3 strategic organisations
Mon 20 th Dec	Special Meeting MDDC Community PDG– report with recommendations from Grants Working Group
4 th Jan '22	MDDC Cabinet

Decisions approved

If you have any queries about the process, please do contact me, John Bodley Scott, at jbodleyscott@middevon.gov.uk or phone 07967 179699