

Midlothian Council Large Grants Scoring Criteria 2022/25

Does the project meet the outcomes of the funding stream?	Q2	Has to be a yes or application not assessed			
Are the project costs eligible?	Q9 Yes/no/partial	<p>These are not eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs of buildings • Capital projects • Paying for religious services or religious materials • Being spent exclusively on consultancy fees • Paying for material that is designed to support political activity or a political party 			
			EXAMPLE OF A 1	EXAMPLE OF A 5	EXAMPLE OF A 10
How clearly has the applicant described the differences the project will make and how they will know that you have achieved these outcomes?	Q3	Out of 10	<p>A weak application:</p> <p>Outputs are not specific and no numbers</p> <p>Outcomes not linked to outputs</p> <p>The change made is not clear</p>	<p>An average application:</p> <p>Outputs are not specific but numbers are detailed</p>	<p>A strong application demonstrates:</p> <p>Specific outputs about the activity and the estimated numbers of people who will take part.</p> <p>Outcomes are linked to the outputs and identifies the changes that will be made as a result of the activity.</p> <p>How they will know the project has made a difference</p>

<p>How well does the application evidence the unmet need?</p>	<p>Q4</p>	<p>Out of 10</p>	<p>A weak application will:</p> <p>Not make reference to research and data sources</p> <p>No direct community engagement</p> <p>Not demonstrate that there is a gap in services</p> <p>Not demonstrate how the activity will lead to better outcomes</p>	<p>An average application:</p> <p>Makes reference to data sources but not how it has informed their project</p> <p>Is for an area out with the priority areas</p>	<p>A strong application will:</p> <p>Identify a target group in one of Midlothian's priority areas</p> <p>Provide evidence of need from direct community engagement or research and/or use data from existing sources.</p> <p>Confirm that the project will fill a gap in services and be confident that it will not duplicate work</p> <p>Demonstrate clearly how the activity will lead to better outcomes for local people</p>
<p>How well does the application demonstrate how they intend to evaluate the project?</p>	<p>Q4</p>	<p>Out of 10</p>	<p>A weak application will:</p> <p>Make no mention of evaluation</p>	<p>An average application:</p> <p>Only makes reference to 1 evaluation method</p> <p>No baseline information</p>	<p>A strong application demonstrates:</p> <p>A clear evaluation method that will show how you will know you have made a difference.</p> <p>A variety of methods</p> <p>A baseline knowledge, i.e. what they know at the START of the project so that they can measure the changes.</p>

<p>How well does the application demonstrate partnership working?</p>	<p>Q5</p>	<p>Out of 10</p>	<p>A weak application:</p> <p>Has no established partners</p>	<p>An average application:</p> <p>Makes reference to others working in the area but not to how they are working together</p>	<p>A strong application will demonstrate:</p> <p>Strong partnerships</p> <p>Contributes to community planning in Midlothian</p> <p>Examples of collaborating on delivery, signposting, referring people to them or taking referrals from them</p>
<p>How well does the organisation demonstrate they have the experience/expertise to deliver the project?</p>	<p>Q6</p>	<p>Out of 10</p>	<p>A weak application:</p> <p>Makes no reference to established links with the community</p> <p>No track record in delivery</p> <p>Training not up to date</p>	<p>An average application:</p> <p>Limited detail on skills, knowledge and experience of volunteers, and/or directors</p> <p>Limited detail on track record of delivery</p>	<p>A strong application will demonstrate:</p> <p>Knowledge of, and established links, with the local community</p> <p>The skills, knowledge and experience of volunteers, and/or directors</p> <p>Staff members with expertise</p> <p>A track record in delivery</p> <p>Team has undertaken current and relevant training</p> <p>Identifies assets and resources available including space, equipment, etc.</p>
<p>How well does the application demonstrate that the project will be accessible and promotes equality?</p>	<p>Q7</p>	<p>Out of 10</p>	<p>A weak application:</p>	<p>An average application:</p>	<p>A strong application will make reference to:</p>

			<p>Makes no reference to policies and procedures promoting accessibility</p> <p>Staff and volunteers not trained on equality and diversity</p>	<p>Makes satisfactory reference to Policies and Procedures that promote accessibility</p>	<p>Protected characteristics groups</p> <p>Policies and Procedures that promote accessibility</p> <p>Accessibility of premises -e.g. ramps, opening hours, outreach</p> <p>Marketing to under-represented groups, Plain English, Other languages, Large print</p> <p>Support offered to vulnerable service users to enable them to participate</p> <p>Active work with your service users on equalities</p> <p>Partnership with specialist organisations</p> <p>Training provided to staff and volunteers on equality and diversity</p>
<p>How well thought through is their exit strategy?</p>	Q8	Out of 5	<p>A weak application will:</p> <p>Not consider an exit strategy</p> <p>Not consider alternative funding streams</p> <p>Not plan for wrapping up the project if alternative funding or income is not available</p>	<p>An average application:</p> <p>Acknowledges the need for an exit strategy but not identified alternative funding</p> <p>Acknowledges the potential to have to wrap up the project but not the practicalities of this</p>	<p>A strong application will:</p> <p>Provide timescales for identifying and applying for alternative funding</p> <p>Identify whether it is viable to generate income through social enterprise, and what</p>

					<p>will need to be done in order for this to happen</p> <p>Consider whether after three years, the project may need to develop or change</p> <p>Consider how you may wrap up the project if alternative funding or income is not available.</p>
<p>Do the project costings appear to be realistic, offer value for money and are they appropriate to the outputs of the project?</p>	Q9	Out of 10	<p>A weak application:</p> <p>Unrealistic costings</p> <p>Numbers rounded up with no detail</p> <p>Totals do not add up</p>	<p>An average application:</p> <p>Provide overall costings</p>	<p>A strong application will:</p> <p>Provide detailed costings</p> <p>Demonstrate value for money</p> <p>Totals add up</p>