

Record of an individual Cabinet member decision

Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Decision made by	Cllr. Tony Harbour
Key decision?	Yes
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	13 February 2018
Name and job title of officer requesting the decision	Gerry Brough – Interim Head of Housing and Development
Officer contact details	Tel: 01235 422470 Email: gerry.brough@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision	<p>To approve the acceptance of £295,000 grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) That was awarded to South and Vale in late June 2017. This award was obtained following a request from MHCLG, inviting Garden Towns/Communities to bid for a share of an additional £2.5m capacity funding budget that they had managed to secure for this financial year.</p> <p>The funding referred to in paper is allocated on a 50/50 basis between SODC and VoWHDC with SODC as the accountable body receiving the grant.</p>
Reasons for decision	<p>As this grant is in excess of £75k this qualifies as a key decision and requires cabinet or individual cabinet member approval. Background behind this grant offer is as follows:</p> <p>In response to MHCLG's call for applications, South and Vale officers submitted a bid for £995,000. This included many of the short-term funding requirements identified in Chapter 11 of the DGT Delivery Plan.</p> <p>The full amount applied for was not expected to be forthcoming, since MHCLG only had a budget of £2.5m for all the Garden Towns and communities. We were therefore pleased to be awarded a grant of £295,000.</p>

	<p>The grant has been awarded as a section 19 grant and we have obtained confirmation from MHCLG that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant can be used to part-fund the cost of producing the DGT Delivery Plan • Copies of invoices already paid, to the value of £295K, can be submitted to claim the grant, so long as the invoices directly relate to costs incurred in producing the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan and the claim is made before 31 March 2018 • The DGT delivery Plan is used to evidence the positive output achieved by using the £295K Section 19 grant funds • Any Section 31 grant that may otherwise have been used to pay invoices associated with producing the DGT Delivery Plan, can be used for other purposes related to the implementation of the Garden Town Delivery Plan <p>Following acceptance of this Section 19 Grant, the £295K of Section 31 Grant funding that will be freed-up will need to be re-allocated. However, any decision relating to the re-allocation of this funding will exceed the Councils' key decision threshold and therefore this will need Cabinet approval.</p> <p>Signed acceptance of this revised grant offer is to be returned to Homes England (who are administering the grant on behalf of MHCLG) by 14 February 2018 and the funding needs to be claimed by our S151 Officer by 31 March 2018.</p> <p>However, any freed-up Section 31 grant funds will not be subject to any spending deadline. Therefore, there is no undue pressure to obtain Cabinet approval for the proposed re-allocation of this funding.</p> <p>A Cabinet Paper seeking approval to allocate the freed-up £295K of Section 31 Grant funds is therefore unlikely to be submitted until May 2018 at the earliest.</p>
<p>Alternative options rejected</p>	<p>The only option available to the Council is to accept the grant on the terms offered or decline to accept the grant. There is no scope for further negotiation of the grant terms and conditions.</p>

Legal implications	<p>The £295K capacity grant is Section 19 grant that MHCLG have agreed can be used to fund costs associated with producing the DGT Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Section 31 grant funds that had previously been allocated for the same purpose i.e. to produce a Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan can now be spent in other ways, so long as this expenditure is associated with implementing the DGT Delivery Plan.</p>			
Financial implications	<p>Acceptance of this grant and using this against invoices already received for producing the DGT delivery plan will free-up £295k of Section 31 funding that has previously been allocated to pay for this work. Officers will therefore submit a future paper to Cabinet seeking approval to re-allocate the freed-up £295K of Section 31 Grant funds</p>			
Other implications	None			
Background papers considered	Grant offer letter received from Homes England (attached)			
Declarations/conflict of interest? Declaration of other councillor/officer consulted by the Cabinet member?	None			
List consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Ward councillors	n/a		
	Legal	Margaret Reed	Agreed at SMT meeting	7/2/18
	Finance	William Jacobs	Agreed at SMT meeting	7/2/18
	Human resources	n/a		
	Sustainability	n/a		
	Diversity and equality	n/a		
	Communications	Jayne Bolton	Agreed at SMT meeting	7/2/18
	Chief Executive	Mark Sone	Agreed at SMT meeting	7/2/18
Confidential decision? If so, under which exempt category?	No			
Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?	Yes			

<p>Cabinet member's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.</p>	<p>Signature _____ Councillor Tony Harbour _____</p> <p>Date _____ 13 February 2018 _____</p>
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ONCE SIGNED, THIS FORM MUST BE HANDED TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IMMEDIATELY

For Democratic Services office use only		
Form received	Date: 13 February 2018	Time: 13:00
Date published to all councillors	Date: 13 February 2018	
Call-in deadline	Call-in waived	