

Delegated authority officer decision notice Berinsfield Capital Grant Awards

Decision made by	Adrianna Partridge, Deputy Chief Executive
Lead officer contact details	Jayne Bolton, Community Wellbeing Manger Jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk 07717 271911
Decision (Keep this succinct)	To approve the capital grant awards for Berinsfield Grant scheme and additional conditions attached at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.
Key decision? (see notes below)	Yes, officer key decision, due to the value of awards being over £25,000.
If key decision, has call-in been waived by the Scrutiny Committee chair(s)?	No
Confidential decision, and if so under which exempt category?	No
Delegated authority reference from the constitution	<p>On 30 September 2021 Cabinet resolved to: Authorise the interim head of policy and programmes, in consultation with the head of finance and cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, to set out a strategic framework and approve the policies and procedures evaluation/scoring criteria and weightings for revenue and capital grant programmes.</p> <p>On 1 April 2022, the interim head of policy and programmes approved the policy via delegated authority, setting out the approvals process following officer recommendations and the Berinsfield Steering Group.</p> <p><i>The head of policy and programmes in consultation with the head of finance and the cabinet member for community wellbeing will consider officers suggested scores and recommendations for each application and determine the grant applications.</i></p> <p>The amendment to the community wellbeing was due to the conflict of interest held by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration as Ward Member.</p> <p>Constitution, Para 3.1 page 136 - To have an oversight and overall responsibility for all functions delegated to the head of corporate services and the head of policy and programmes.</p>
Risks	There is a risk that the organisations who receive an award may not complete the capital project or deliver the revenue targets they

	<p>agree to. In line with the policy, all organisations will sign up to either our standard conditions or a grant agreement, depending on the value of award. To further protect the councils' funds, additional conditions are attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>In addition to the staged payments referred to below, careful consideration has been given to the percentage of award the organisation will receive in order to increase the likelihood of the organisation being able to raise the remaining funds required, or reduce the size of the project, through removing some elements. If the actual project costs less than the grant awarded, the council will be able to reduce the final stage payment or recover part of any paid funds if necessary.</p> <p>Therefore, the risks are considered acceptable with the processes that we have in place.</p>
<p>Reasons for decision</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>In April 2022, the Berinsfield grant scheme policy was approved with a budget of £120,000 for capital projects and £225,000 for revenue projects, up to a period of five years, that will be awarded under a separate delegated authority.</p> <p>The grants scheme opened on 6 April and closed on 17 June 2022, receiving six capital applications totalling £209,306. Organisations were able to apply to both the revenue and capital elements of the scheme.</p> <p>Approving the awards, and additional conditions</p> <p>An Independent Panel of three members who have extensive experience of working in Berinsfield supporting the local community met on 24 August 2022 to review and comment on the applications and the officers scores against the policy criteria. Their comments and recommendations have been taken into account in these proposals.</p> <p>Officers recommend that each of the six applications to the capital scheme receive a percentage of their overall request in order to provide funding to each organisation (detailed information in appendix one).</p> <p>It is recommended that the Berin Centre receives 100 per cent of their request following adjustments made to represent the lower quote and removing the solar panels from the request due to concerns raised by the climate change team and overall feasibility of this element of the project.</p> <p>It is further recommended that the remaining organisations receive 65 or 66 per cent of their request due to the scores and budget availability and this will enable us to support all of the applications. Remaining gaps in funding may be supported through other council grant schemes or external funding.</p>

	<p>Releasing capital payments The first 50 per cent of the capital grant award to Berinsfield Parish Council (£17,259) and Early years pre-school (£19,870) will be released once the funding agreements have been completed. In line with the policy, these organisations are above the threshold to use our standard conditions so need formal agreements. All remaining organisations will receive the first 50 per cent of the award on receipt of a valid signed acceptance letter including our standard conditions. The remaining 50 per cent is paid on completion of the project, with evidence of expenditure (receipts/invoices).</p> <p>Note: organisations can refuse to accept the grant award offered.</p> <p>Additional conditions of award Officers also recommend additional grant conditions to further safeguard the councils' funds which are detailed in Appendix 2.</p>			
Alternative options rejected	To give all the money requested to the highest scoring organisations until there are no funds left, and not award any funding to the remaining organisations. This was rejected as this would be against the general principle of supporting the regeneration of Berinsfield, and the desire to support as many projects as possible.			
Climate and ecological implications	The comments received from the climate team were taken into consideration when determining the value of award for relevant capital applications.			
Legal implications	All legal implications have been considered as part of the decision.			
Financial implications	£345,000 is available in the revenue budget cost centre CA20/4700 to fund the awards from this scheme for both the revenue and capital grant awards. £120,000 was allocated for capital projects and £225,000 for revenue projects, which will be awarded under a separate delegated authority.			
Other implications	N/A			
Background papers considered	Board papers for the scheme			
Declarations/ conflict of interest?				
Consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Legal legal@southandvale.gov.uk	Rameesh Chowdary	Comments considered as part of the decision	4/10/22
	Finance Finance@southandvale.gov.uk	Nicole Tyreman	Note monies are grant funded by Homes England, but no other comments to make.	27/09/22
	HR hradminandpayrol	n/a		

	l@southandvale.gov.uk			
	Climate and biodiversity climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk	Jessie Fieth	It would be useful to understand if any of the capital grants awards will address climate issues and if and how this was taken into account and encouraged through the application process. Officers have responded.	23/09/22
	Equality and diversity equalities@southandvale.gov.uk	Lynne Mitchell	Look forward to working with the group regarding points on Appendix 2.	20/09/22
	Risk and insurance risk@southandvale.gov.uk			
	Communications communications@southandvale.gov.uk	Emma East	Commented no issues.	21/09/22
	Senior Management Team ExecutiveSupportSAV@southandvale.gov.uk	N/A		
	Head of Finance	Simon Hewings	Approved	6/10/22
	Cabinet member	Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Approved	7/10/22
	Ward councillors			
Decision maker's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Signature: Adrianna Partridge Date: 6 October 2022			

IMPORTANT NOTES TO OFFICERS:

1. You need to ask your head of service (or above) to determine whether this is a key decision. The constitution specifies a key decision as a decision of Cabinet, an individual Cabinet member or an officer acting under delegated powers, which is likely to:

- (a) incur expenditure, make savings or to receive income (except government grant) of more than £75,000; or
- (b) award a revenue or capital grant of over £25,000; or
- (c) agree an action that, in the view of the chief executive or the relevant head of service, would be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward in the area of the council.

2. If this is a key decision (as defined in paragraph 1 above), immediately after it is signed off, send it to democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk to allow the councillors' scrutiny call-in procedure to commence. You cannot implement a key decision until the scrutiny call-in procedure has been completed. You will receive a copy of the email to councillors. Check with Democratic Services after the close of the call-in period to see if the decision has been called-in.

3. If this is a key decision but the Scrutiny Committee Chair(s) has waived call-in, immediately after it is signed off send it to democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk to allow councillors to be informed that a key decision has been made and scrutiny call-in waived. You may then implement the decision without further delay.

4. If this is a non-key decision, save this decision notice to your network drive for audit purposes (Democratic Services do not need a copy). You may implement the decision immediately.