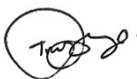


Delegated authority officer decision notice Berinsfield Revenue Grant Awards

Decision made by	Tim Oruye, Head of Policy and Programmes
Lead officer contact details	Jayne Bolton, Community Wellbeing Manger Jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk 07717 271911
Decision (Keep this succinct)	1) To approve the revenue grant award of £39,996 (2023/24 to 2026/27) to Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice (OSVCA) from the Berinsfield Grant Scheme. 2) To approve OSVCA revenue grant performance targets attached at appendix one.
Key decision? (see notes below)	Yes, officer key decision, due to the value of award 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 independent advisory 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.</p>
Risks	There is a risk that OSVCA may not deliver the agreed revenue targets, therefore the council may not feel it is getting value for money. However, OSVCA have a proven track record for meeting

	<p>the targets they propose. In line with the policy, OSVCA will sign up to our standard conditions for this scheme. The standard conditions allow the council to change the payment schedule, or to withhold or reduce a revenue grant payment for failing to meet agreed monitoring targets.</p> <p>Further mitigation in line with the policy is set out below.</p> <p>Therefore, the risks are considered acceptable with the processes 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 £225,000 for revenue projects up to a period of five years and £120,000 for capital projects.</p> <p>The grants scheme opened for applications on 6 April and closed on 17 June 2022, receiving nine revenue applications to the value of £637,410. Organisations were able to apply to both the revenue and capital elements of the scheme.</p> <p>Revenue awards were made to the organisations in October 2022, following approval via delegated authority, as attached at appendix two.</p> <p>In November 2022, Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre (BIVC) made that council aware that they were no longer able to continue operating and, on the 16 December 2022, closed. They were therefore unable to accept the councils grant award of £40,399.</p> <p>This left a significant gap in service provision for the residents of Berinsfield and has had a negative impact on the wellbeing of the residents who relied on these services. It also led to greater demand on the remaining voluntary organisation in the village who are already experiencing unprecedented demand due to the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>We therefore agreed to reopen the Berinsfield Grant scheme for OSVCA to apply for the funding originally awarded to BIVC, to establish a Citizens Advice Community Hub in partnership with the Berin Centre.</p> <p>Assessing the grant application</p> <p>OSVCA submitted an application to request £9,999 per year for 2023-24 and the following three financial years. The funding is to fund core costs for a new service in Berinsfield working in partnership with the Berin Centre.</p> <p>Officers and the Independent Panel have reviewed and scored the application submitted by OSVCA, as a high priority. In line with the policy, high scoring organisations receive all of the funds requested,</p>

	<p>budget permitting.</p> <p>Releasing Revenue payments, targets and monitoring OSVCA will sign the standard conditions for this scheme due to the value of their annual award. We will pay the 2023/24 annual grant of £9,999 upon receipt of a valid signed acceptance, standard conditions and agreeing their monitoring targets (attached at appendix one).</p> <p>Subsequent payments will be made on an annual basis, subject to a satisfactory monitoring review against the targets each year.</p> <p>Ongoing annual monitoring meetings will be held with OSVCA throughout the period of the grant. Officers will also have informal meetings with the organisation to further develop relationships and provide support.</p>			
Alternative options rejected	Not to open the Berinsfield Grant Scheme to allow OSVCA to apply for the funding originally allocated to BIVC has been rejected, as there is a clear need for this service provision in Berinsfield.			
Climate and ecological implications	An additional condition will be added to have discussions as part of annual revenue monitoring with the grant recipients, about their commitment to climate action in general, and how they may make positive contributions to the climate emergency across their work and organisation.			
Legal implications	No legal implications arising from the decision.			
Financial implications	£40,399 is available in the revenue budget cost centre CA20/4700 to fund the £39,996 award to OSVCA from this scheme.			
Other implications	N/A			
Background papers considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSVCA application and board paper for the scheme • Original revenue grant awards 			
Declarations/ conflict of interest?	None			
Consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Legal legal@southandvale.gov.uk	Patrick Arran	Approved from a legal perspective, there are no legal implications arising from the decision	5/7/23
	Finance Finance@southandvale.gov.uk	Simon Hewings	Note monies are grant funded by Homes England	13/7/23
	HR hradminandpayroll@southandvale.gov.uk	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Climate and biodiversity climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk	Heather Saunders	Please could you add some text to the Citizens Advice targets to ensure that volunteers and staff refer	10/7/23

			residents to grants and support for energy saving home improvements. Could you maybe add a line to the target for the outcome 'Increase income gain to the residents of Berinsfield' Background information on 'Better Housing Better Health' provided to share with Citizens Advice.	
	Equality and diversity equalities@southandvale.gov.uk	Lynne Mitchell	I support this DA as it's important we ensure our most vulnerable residents are supported as best as we can.	6/7/23
	Risk and insurance risk@southandvale.gov.uk	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Communications communications@southandvale.gov.uk	Gail Buckle	Discuss comms when approved	12/7/23
	Senior Management Team ExecutiveSupportSAV@southandvale.gov.uk	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cabinet member	Cllr Filipova-Rivers	Approved	24/7/23
	Head of Finance	Simon Hewings	Approved	13/7/23
	Ward councillors			
Decision maker's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Signature:  Date: 3/08/2023			

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.