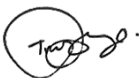


Delegated authority officer decision notice

Decision made by	Tim Oruye, Head of Policy and Programmes
Lead officer contact details	Jayne Bolton, Community Wellbeing Manager, Policy and Programmes Team Jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision (Keep this succinct)	To approve the updated council's Capital Grants Policy as set out in Appendix 1.
Key decision? (see notes below)	Yes
If key decision, has call-in been waived by the Scrutiny Committee chair(s)?	No
Confidential decision, and if so under which exempt category?	N/A
Delegated authority reference from the constitution	Individual Cabinet Member Decision dated 3 April 2024 - the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing delegated authority to the Head of Policy and Programmes to make minor changes to the policy and scoring criteria.
Risks	The policy amendments carry minimum risk. Changes are in response to feedback received from applicants, officers and the Community Grants Panel. The rationale for these has been included in the attached summary document at Appendix 2, in which the level of risk with relevant changes has been highlighted.
Reasons for decision	<p>The policy was last reviewed in July 2022 prior to launching the scheme. Following feedback received from applicants, officers, and the Community Grants Panel from the 2023 scheme, it was considered prudent to review the policy prior to reopening the scheme in July 2024.</p> <p>A summary of the main changes is detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the minimum grant request from £1,000 to £5,000 to encourage larger projects. • 75 per cent of the grant will be paid upfront instead of 50 per cent to

	<p>minimise the risk of projects being put on hold and reduce cash flow issues for the organisation's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full upfront payments will be made for grants up to £10,000 to help smaller projects get off the ground. • The scoring and award matrix has been revised so organisations can score up to two additional points to reflect projects that meet more than one corporate priority. • The Action on the Climate Emergency scoring criteria has been changed so the climate credentials of the project are scored instead of the organisation's commitment to the climate emergency. This encourages applicants to consider the climate credentials of their entire project. <p>All changes and the rationale for these are set out in Appendix 2.</p>
Alternative options rejected	<p>1) To continue operating the grant scheme under the current policy. This option was rejected, as it would not address the feedback received from officers, applicants, or Community Grants Panel members.</p> <p>2) To implement only some of the changes set out in this paper. This option was rejected, as it would reduce the ability to improve the effectiveness of the policy for the council, decision makers and applicants.</p>
Legal implications	<p>There are limited legal implications arising from the decision. The policy has been updated to reflect the Subsidy Control Act 2022, and no longer refer to De Minimis State aid. In addition, the policy now states we won't fund council legal fees, otherwise the council would be paying itself.</p>
Financial implications	<p>There are no direct financial implications involved with this decision.</p>
Climate implications	<p>The updated policy scoring criteria will encourage applicants to fully consider how their projects can contribute to addressing the climate and ecological emergencies, in addition to having the option to score the project against the Action on Climate Emergency Corporate Plan theme.</p>
Equalities implications	<p>There are no additional equality implications because of this decision. The policy encourages all applicants to make their projects inclusive and accessible to all and includes an alternative format statement. Changes to the payment schedule could result in projects getting off the ground or completing sooner which will benefit the community.</p>
Other implications	<p>N/A</p>
Background papers considered	<p>N/A</p>
Declarations/ conflict of interest?	<p>N/A</p>

Consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Legal legal@southandvale.gov.uk		No comment	20/05/24
	Finance Finance@southandvale.gov.uk	Emma Creed	Approved	16/05/24
	Climate and biodiversity climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk	Jessie Fieth	Approved	16/05/24
	Equality and diversity equalities@southandvale.gov.uk	Abi Witting	Approved	13/05/24
	Communications communications@southandvale.gov.uk	Gail Buckle	Approved	16/05/24
Decision maker's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	<p>Signature: </p> <p>Date: 21/05/2024</p>			

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.