

Record of 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	Councillor Georgina Heritage
Key decision?	Yes
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	27 June 2024
Name and job title of officer requesting the decision	Jayne Bolton Community Wellbeing Manager Report Author: Cheryl Reeves, Community Enablement Team Leader
Officer contact details	Tel: 07717 271911 Email: Jayne.Bolton@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision	To approve the updated Councillor Community Grant Policy as set out in Appendix 1.
Reasons for decision	<p>The policy was last reviewed in June 2021 prior to launching the scheme. Whilst process improvements have been implemented since then, following feedback received from members and officers, it was considered prudent to review the policy prior to reopening the scheme in August 2024.</p> <p>A summary of the main changes are detailed below, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote further alignment to the Corporate Plan priorities. • Introduce online grant acceptances. • Reduce the documentation required from applicants. • Introduce a maximum of five wards that applicants can apply to. • Open for one round for a minimum of 14 weeks; members to make decisions when the scheme closes, apart from urgent and time critical single ward applications. • Make it clearer that the Head of Service will approve applications where members have a conflict of interest. <p>A full list of changes and rationale for these can be found in Appendix 2. These include process improvement changes that will reduce paperwork requirements for members.</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 members and officers.</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.</p> <p>The policy has been updated to include reference to Subsidy Control/Minimal Financial Assistance as a condition. This has always been in place, but silent in the policy.</p> <p>Where a conflict of interest has been declared, and confirmation has been received from the member that they wish to fund a project, the Head of Service will approve the award in accordance with the officer scheme of delegation in the council's constitution.</p>
Financial implications	<p>There are no direct financial implications involved with this decision.</p>
Climate implications	<p>The policy addresses the need for applicants to consider the climate and ecological implications of their project, such as the use of sustainable materials or other climate-friendly options to reduce energy use where appropriate.</p> <p>More project examples have been added, including those that support 'blue' (outdoor environments) and 'green' (open spaces) objectives. Reference is also made to not funding projects that are contrary to the councils net zero ambitions.</p>
Equalities implications	<p>The policy encourages all applicants to make their projects inclusive and accessible to all, including initiatives to reduce rural loneliness and isolation.</p> <p>Reference is also made to not funding projects that are contrary to the Equality Act 2010 and/or the councils Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.</p>
Other implications	<p>N/A</p>
Background papers considered	<p>N/A</p>
Declarations/c onflict of interest? Declaration of other councillor/officer consulted by the Cabinet member?	<p>N/A</p>

List consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Legal legal@southandvale.gov.uk	Pat Connell	Agreed as discussed and amended	11 June 2024
	Finance Finance@southandvale.gov.uk	Nicole Tyreman	Approved	10 June 2024
	Climate and biodiversity climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk	Kim Hall	Approved with minor change to one of the items the scheme can fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearing of parish land to create an accessible green space for activities or community growing or edible landscapes.' 'Clearing' has been changed to 'using' to demonstrate supporting recreation in balance with nature.	5 June 2024
	Diversity and equality equalities@southandvale.gov.uk	Equalities team	Approved	31 May 2024
	Communications communications@southandvale.gov.uk	Charlotte Westgate	Approved	3 June 2024
	All members		Feedback has been incorporated into the policy	Various April 2024
	Community Grants Panel		Feedback has been incorporated into the policy	Various May 2024
	SMT		Approved	24 June 24
Confidential decision? If so, under which exempt category?	No			
Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?	No			
Has this been discussed by Cabinet members?	All members and the Community Grants Panel have been consulted.			
Cabinet portfolio holder's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Signature __ Cllr Georgina Heritage _____ Date __24 June 2024_____			

ONCE SIGNED, THIS FORM MUST BE HANDED TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IMMEDIATELY.

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Form received	Date: 27 June 2024	Time: 16:31
Date published to all councillors	Date: 28 June 2024	
Call-in deadline	Date: 05 July 2024	Time: 17:00