


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 Helen Pighills
Key decision?	No
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	16/12/19
Name and job title of officer requesting the decision	Suzi Wild, Community Liaison Officer
Officer contact details	Tel: 01235 422171 Email: suzi.wild@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision	<p>To act as an accountable body to take receipt of central government funding on behalf of successful Vale based community led applications to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's 'Pocket Parks' scheme.</p> <p>To enter into a grant agreement with MHCLG governing receipt and application of the funds.</p> <p>To enter a grant relationship with successful Vale based community led organisations and to administer grant payments accordingly.</p>
Reasons for decision	<p>The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) is inviting applications from community-led organisations across England working in partnership with local authorities, to apply for 'Pocket Parks' funding to create new pocket parks and refurbish existing parks. The scheme is currently open for applications and closes 31 December 2019 - £1.35 million funding is available.</p> <p>It is key requirement of the scheme that applicants must be supported in writing by the relevant local authority. The local authority must also be willing to work in partnership with the applicant, hold the grant and release the funds to the community applicant. Successful community organisations must also accept the council's standard legal terms and conditions for grants.</p> <p>MHCLG funding is provided via the principal level local authority, to which the grant is made under section 31 of the Local Government Act (2003). MHCLG are unable to provide</p>

	<p>funding through town and parish councils.</p> <p>The authority for the council to agree to the receipt of funding falls within: Unofficial funds para.177 of the financial procedure rules in the council's constitution (page 221).</p>
<p>Alternative options rejected</p>	<p>To not act as an accountable body or take receipt of central government funding on behalf of successful Vale based community organisations and to continue to encourage community-based organisations to apply to council community grants schemes. Currently one Vale grant scheme is open for applications, the festivals and events grant scheme. Town and Parish Councils are not able to apply to this scheme and the scheme can only fund costs relating to an event. The costs associated within Pocket Parks' are not eligible.</p> <p>There is a potential reputational risk as community led organisations could miss applying to the fund which they could approach the council for in the future. Equally, with council budgets under intense pressure, applicants are increasingly encouraged to seek external funding.</p> <p>Please note, the council previously acted as the accountable body for, took receipt of and administered grant payments to 2 organisations who successfully applied to the 'Pocket Parks Plus' fund (April 2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinnor Parish Council • Drayton St Leonards Parish Council
<p>Legal implications</p>	<p>To mitigate against the legal implications to the council;</p> <p>Successful community organisations must accept the council's standard legal terms and conditions for grants. These standard terms and conditions apply to all Capital grant offers dated from 31 October 2019. Depending on the terms on which MHCLG provide the funding to the council these standard terms may need to be amended for this scheme.</p> <p>There may be state aid implications of awarding some grants. However, given that community led organisations can apply to this scheme this is highly unlikely, but applicants will be asked questions that will enable officers to identify whether state aid will apply and take the appropriate action.</p> <p>Successful community organisations sign a MHCLG 'Pocket Parks' letter confirming they agree to be willing to accept the local authority's terms and conditions for the provision of grant.</p>

	Local authorities sign a MHCLG 'Pocket Parks' letter confirming agreement to take receipt of the approved funding on terms set by MHCLG on behalf of the community applicant; to enter into a grant relationship and administer grant payments.			
Financial implications	<p>There are no direct financial implications to the council except for staff resource - the Community Enablement team to administer the grant payments and manage the grant relationships.</p> <p>Any financial implications to the council are mitigated as the MHCLG's criteria for successful applications states that;</p> <p>The ongoing management of successful Pocket Park applications is funded through the revenue element of the award. This is to enable the community - led organisation to invest in the ongoing management of the site.</p> <p>Applicants need to provide evidence that match funding of a minimum of 30% of the grant amount has been secured, in addition to the grant and not part of the grant.</p>			
Other implications	n/a			
Background papers considered	'Pocket Parks 2019' prospectus as attached. Of particular note annex c and d - Pocket Parks agreement letters			
Declarations/conflict of interest? Declaration of other councillor/officer consulted by the Cabinet member?				
List consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Ward councillors	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Legal	Pat Connell	Comments received – ICMD narrative revised accordingly	28/11/2019
	Finance	Nicole Tyreman	Comments received – ICMD narrative revised accordingly	25/11/2019
	Human resources	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Sustainability	Heather Saunders	No comments	26/11/2019
	Diversity and equality	Yvonne Cutler-Greaves	Comments received – ICMD narrative revised accordingly	27/11/2019
	Communications	Andy Roberts	No comments	21/11/2019
	Parks	John Backley	Comments	25/11/2019

			received – ICMD narrative revised accordingly	
	Senior Management Team	Andrew Down	Comments received – ICMD narrative revised accordingly	2/12/2019
Confidential decision? If so, under which exempt category?	no			
Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?				
Has this been discussed by Cabinet members?	No			
Cabinet portfolio holder's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Signature <u></u> Date <u>16/12/19</u>			

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

For Democratic Services office use only		
Form received	Date: <u>16-12-19</u>	Time: <u>15:20</u>
Date published to all councillors	Date: <u>16-12-19</u>	
Call-in deadline	Date: <u>NOT APPLICABLE</u>	Time: <u>—</u>