


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 Bethia Thomas, Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration
Key decision?	No
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	
Name and job title of officer requesting the decision	Aileen David, Senior Development Projects Officer
Officer contact details	Tel: 01235 422239 Email: aileen.david@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision	To accept the award of Garden Village status for Dalton Barracks and the receipt of £150,000 associated capacity funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
Background	<p>Historically, garden villages were based on strong foundations of industry and employment, as well designed, healthy places and affordable homes. Today's Garden villages apply the same principles in a twenty first century context. The purpose of the government's programme is "the creation of well-planned and designed, locally-led Garden Villages...these places have the potential to become vibrant new communities where people can live and work, and to create a legacy that will be enjoyed by future generations."</p> <p>In November 2018 the Vale of White Horse District Council submitted a bid for Garden Village status for Dalton Barracks, based on work underway for the Local Plan and draft Dalton Barracks SPD. In June 2019 MHCLG announced that Dalton Barracks was one of nineteen villages around the country to be selected to join the Garden Communities Programme.</p> <p>Since MHCLG's announcement, the council has adopted the Local Plan, which allocates a smaller area for 1,200 homes than the area which has been provided with Garden Village status. At the Examination in Public of the Local Plan, the allocation was subject to a modification which has</p>

	<p>resulted in the difference. It is anticipated that the Garden Village funding could be spent on projects relating to the Garden Village as a whole, or to specifically address matters relating to the Local Plan allocation.</p> <p>In addition to Didcot and Bicester Garden Towns, Oxfordshire now has three Garden Villages - Dalton Barracks, Abingdon in the Vale, Berinsfield in South Oxfordshire and Eynsham in West Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Due to the large number of successful bids elsewhere, MHCLG took some time to process funding for the new Garden Villages but, on 4 November 2019 we received £150,000 capacity funding from MHCLG specifically for Dalton Barracks.</p> <p>A proposed Homes England induction event for new Garden Villages in November was postponed due to purdah, however officers will meet with government advisors at an event in Birmingham on 22 January 2020. An inception meeting with Homes England will be held in January to discuss with relevant officers and the cabinet member for Development and Regeneration, the support that will be available from Homes England in relation to Dalton Barracks.</p>
<p>Reasons for decision</p>	<p>Garden Village status will provide opportunities to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the climate change emergency through sustainable development, sustainable transport and renewable energy projects • exemplar healthy living and place shaping to stand out alongside other Oxfordshire Garden Communities: Eynsham and Berinsfield, Didcot and Bicester. • revitalisation of Dalton Barracks, once the MOD has decommissioned the site, and provision of affordable and market homes close to employment sites • holistic, high quality masterplanning for the strategic site allocation and the wider Garden Village area • provision of services within walking distance of homes and links with the surrounding area • long term stewardship including management of green space, putting local people at the heart of community facilities management <p>Accepting the £150,000 Garden Village capacity funding will fund projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updating and completion of the draft Dalton Barracks Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to ensure council-led exemplary standards

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> feasibility studies and other sustainable transport studies for the wider Garden Village area rather than just the strategic site allocation, which is all that a potential developer would fund. <p>Accepting the £150,000 capacity funding and using it well may attract further funding from the government and Garden Village status may help to justify potential bids for other forms of capital funding support.</p>
Alternative options rejected	The council could choose not to accept the status and/or the funding, however there would be a risk that developers alone may not provide the exemplar design to be expected from a Garden Village. Consequently, the opportunities set out above would be at risk of not being realised.
Legal implications	<p>Whilst the council received the £150,000 capacity funding on 4 November 2019, we have not been informed of any specific terms and conditions associated with it. This will be explored more fully at the Homes England inception meeting in January 2020.</p> <p>It is intended to carry out the re-working of the SPD in-house without further recourse to the consultants who prepared the original draft but should further evidence base studies need to be commissioned from external consultants to complete the SPD, legal assistance will be required in any procurement process.</p>
Financial implications	<p>Vale of White Horse District Council's Constitution, states that receipt of a government grant, even one over £75,000, is excluded from the definition of a key decision. Therefore, acceptance of the grant and Garden Village status may be carried out via an ICMD.</p> <p>The council is in receipt of £150,000 from MHCLG and the Head of Development and Regeneration will request that a budget be created in accordance with FPR 91 as this is government grant received outside of the budget setting process. Acceptance of the receipt will not commit the council to any other additional unbudgeted expenditure over and above the £150,000 receipt.</p>
Other implications	n/a
Background papers considered	n/a
Declarations/conflict of interest? Declaration of other councillor/officer	

consulted by the Cabinet member?				
List consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Ward councillors	Cllr Catherine Webber	Requests that Shippon's new joint Neighbourhood Plan with Wootton is respected and that the village of Shippon is treated as a separate entity to the new development. It has a buffer and is not an add on to the development.	10/01/2020
	Legal	Pat Connell	Comments incorporated	18/12/2019
	Finance	Emma Creed	Comments incorporated	18/12/2019
	Planning Policy	Nadeem Din	Comments incorporated	02/02/2020
	Human resources	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Sustainability	Heather Saunders	No comments	06/01/2020
	Diversity and equality	Yvonne Cutler-Greaves	No comments	07/01/2020
	Communications	Andy Roberts	Suggested communications are published once signed.	17/12/2019
	Senior Management Team	Andrew Down/ Adrianna Partridge	No comments	24/01/2020
Confidential decision? If so, under which exempt category?	No			
Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?	No			
Has this been discussed by Cabinet members?	Yes, the cabinet member for Development and Regenerations supports the proposals within the report.			
Cabinet portfolio holder's signature	Signature 			

To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.

Date 29/1/20.

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

For Democratic Services office use only		
Form received	Date:	Time:
Date published to all councillors	Date:	
Call-in deadline	Date:	Time:

Guidance notes

1. This form must be completed by the lead officer who becomes the contact officer. The lead officer is responsible for ensuring that the necessary internal consultees have signed it off, including the chief executive. The lead officer must then seek the Cabinet portfolio holder's agreement and signature.
2. Once satisfied with the decision, the Cabinet portfolio holder must hand-sign and date the form and return it to the lead officer who should send it to Democratic Services immediately to allow the call-in period to commence.
Tel. 01235 422520 or extension 2520.
Email: democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk
3. Democratic Services will then publish the decision to the website (unless it is confidential) and send it to all councillors to commence the call-in period (five clear working days) if it is a 'key' decision (see the definition of a 'key' decision below). A key decision cannot be implemented until the call-in period expires. The call-in procedure can be found in the council's constitution, part 4, under the Scrutiny Committee procedure rules.
4. Before implementing a key decision, the lead officer is responsible for checking with Democratic Services that the decision has not been called in.
5. If a key decision has been called in, Democratic Services will notify the lead officer and decision-maker. This call-in puts the decision on hold.
6. Democratic Services will liaise with the Scrutiny Committee chairman over the date of the call-in debate. The Cabinet portfolio holder will be requested to attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting to answer the committee's questions.
7. The Scrutiny Committee may:
 - refer the decision back to the Cabinet portfolio holder for reconsideration or
 - refer the matter to Council with an alternative set of proposals (where the final decision rests with full Council) or
 - accept the Cabinet portfolio holder's decision, in which case it can be implemented immediately.

Key decisions: assessing whether a decision should be classified as 'key'

The South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils' Constitutions now have the same definition of a key decision:

A key decision is a decision of the Cabinet, an individual Cabinet member, or an officer acting under delegated powers, which is likely:

- (a) to incur expenditure, make savings or to receive income of more than £75,000;**

- (b) to award a revenue or capital grant of over £25,000; or**
- (c) to agree an action that, in the view of the chief executive or 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.**

Key decisions are subject to the scrutiny call-in procedure; non-key decisions are not and can be implemented immediately.

In assessing whether a decision should be classified as 'key', you should consider:

- (a) Will the expenditure, savings or income total more than £75,000 across all financial years?
- (b) Will the grant award to one person or organisation be more than £25,000 across all financial years?
- (c) Does the decision impact on more than one district council ward? And if so, is the impact significant? If residents or property affected by the decision is in one ward but is close to the border of an adjacent ward, it may have a significant impact on that second ward, e.g. through additional traffic, noise, light pollution, odour. Examples of significant impacts on two or more wards are:
 - Decisions to spend Didcot Garden Town funds (significant impact on more than one ward)
 - Changes to the household waste collection policy (affects all households in the district)
 - Reviewing a housing strategy (could have a significant impact on residents in many wards)
 - Adopting a supplementary planning document for a redevelopment site (could significantly affect more than one ward) or a new design guide (affects all wards)
 - Decisions to build new or improve existing leisure facilities (used by residents of more than one ward)

The overriding principle is that before 'key' decisions are made, they must be published in the Cabinet Work Programme for 28 calendar days. Classifying a decision as non-key when it should be a key decision could expose the decision to challenge and delay its implementation.

