


Record of Cabinet portfolio holder decision

Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Decision made by	Councillor Matthew Barber
Key decision?	Yes
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	3/11/16
Name and job title of officer requesting the decision	Gerry Brough Interim Head of Development and Regeneration
Officer contact details	Tel: 01235 422470 Email: Gerry.Brough@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision	<p>1) To agree in principle that the council enters into the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership for Science Vale Growth Accelerator Enterprise Zone in substantially the form attached</p> <p>2) To delegate to the Interim Head of Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree final terms of the MoU and enter into the MoU</p> <p>3) To delegate to the Interim Head of Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Finance responsibility for confirming the management and administration arrangements for the Enterprise Zone between South and Vale</p>
Reasons for decision	<p>In 2015, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP), South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council successfully applied to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for a second enterprise zone to be located in Oxfordshire. The area chosen is located around the Didcot perimeter road and, as such, includes land within both South and Vale.</p> <p>As with the first Enterprise Zone, the councils are permitted to retain 100 per cent of the increase in business rates for 25 years from 1 April 2016, provided that such sums are directed towards the development of the Enterprise Zone and thereafter towards OxLEP's other identified growth</p>

	<p>priorities. Central government will reimburse all the cost of providing a 100 per cent business rates discount for a period of up to five years to any business that sets up operations within the Enterprise Zone before 31 March 2022.</p> <p>How the Enterprise Zone is to be set up and operated is subject to terms and conditions included in an MoU, drafted by DCLG, and which is required to be signed by both councils and by OxLEP. The latest draft of the MoU, attached to this decision notice, contains details of the overarching governance arrangements for the Enterprise Zone. It is recommended that authority to agree final terms is delegated to the Interim Head of Development and Regeneration and responsibility for delivery of the Interim requirements at a local level be delegated to the Interim Head of Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Finance.</p> <p>When final terms are agreed it is envisaged that the Leader will sign the MoU on behalf of the Council</p> <p>The Application for EZ status, and the MoU, identify infrastructure barriers that hinder the development of the EZ sites, including completion of the Northern Ring Road and the Science Bridge that provides access to the sites. Borrowing may be undertaken against future business rates receipts from the Enterprise Zone to enable these works to proceed. There is a risk that retained business rates income does not materialise to pay for these works. This could be for a number of reasons, including significant downward revaluations. The risk will be managed through regular reviews of the estimated business rates income.</p>
<p>Alternative options rejected</p>	<p>The option not sign the MoU was this would mean the benefits of Enterprise Zone status would not be realised.</p>
<p>Legal implications</p>	<p>This agreement is in the form of a non-binding MOU whereby the parties agree to act in good faith towards each other. It does not constitute a partnership arrangement and whilst the Secretary of State has to agree any changes to the document the only remedy /right is for the Secretary of State to suspend or withdraw the councils' right to market the enterprise zone if the relevant party has acted in a way which damages the reputation of the EZ programme or there has been a material breach of the terms of the MOU.</p>
<p>Financial implications</p>	<p>These are detailed on page 12 of the draft MoU.</p>

<p>Other implications</p>	<p>Our communications team will approach CLG press office to secure a quote from their Minister to use in the councils' press release highlighting that the MoU has been signed. The press release will be issued on an agreed date in December 2016, to local and specialist media.</p>			
<p>Background papers considered</p>	<p>Enterprise Zone application</p>			
<p>Declarations/conflict of interest?</p>				
<p>Declaration of other councillor/officer consulted by the Cabinet member?</p>				
<p>List consultees</p>		Name	Outcome	Date
	Ward councillors	NA		
	Legal	Pat Connell	Agreed	31/10/16
	Finance	William Jacobs	Agreed	31/10/16
	Human resources	NA		
	Sustainability	NA		
	Diversity and equality	NA		
	Communications	Patsy Cusworth	Agreed	3/11/16
<p>Confidential decision? If so, under which exempt category?</p>	<p>No</p>			
<p>Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?</p>	<p>NA</p>			
<p>Has this been discussed by Cabinet members?</p>				
<p>Cabinet portfolio holder's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.</p>	<p>Signature </p> <p>Date <u>3.12.2016</u></p>			

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

For Democratic Services office use only

Form received	Date: 4/11/16	Time: 9.15
Date published to all councillors	Date: 4/11/16	
Call-in deadline	Date: 11/11/16	Time: 5pm