

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	Emily Smith
Key decision?	No
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	18 August 2021
Name and job title of officer requesting the decision	Phil Ealey Housing Needs Manager
Officer contact details	Tel: 07717 275498 Email: phil.ealey@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision	<p>To approve Vale of White Horse District Council's participation in the Afghan Locally Employed Staff (ALES) Resettlement Scheme.</p> <p>The council will participate in the scheme by resettling and supporting at least one Afghan family in the Vale of White Horse.</p> <p>The council are also closely monitoring recent developments in Afghanistan to assess what further help it may be able to offer subject to the resources available.</p>
Reasons for decision	<p>The UK has been running a scheme to support locally employed staff in Afghanistan, often in dangerous and challenging situations, in recognition of their commitment and bravery shown supporting UK forces since 2013.</p> <p>The scheme provides a range of in-country packages of assistance in Afghanistan and, for those who meet the criteria, relocation to the UK with their dependants.</p> <p>Those who qualify and choose to relocate to the UK with their families are not expected to return to Afghanistan. After completing five years limited leave, they can apply for permanent residence in the UK.</p> <p>Following announcements that NATO and US military forces are withdrawing from Afghanistan, the Government is seeking support from local authorities to accelerate the pace of relocations over the summer.</p>

	Vale of White Horse District Council want to participate in the ALES Resettlement Scheme in recognition of a moral obligation to Afghan families who have supported British troops and are now at risk of reprisals from Taliban forces.
Alternative options rejected	To not participate in the Afghan Locally Employed Staff resettlement scheme.
Climate and ecological implications	There are no climate or ecological implications from participation in the ALES resettlement scheme.
Legal implications	There are no legal implications from participation in the ALES resettlement scheme.
Financial implications	There are no financial implications from participation in the ALES resettlement scheme. The council's participation in the scheme will be fully funded by the Government.
Other implications	<p>The local authority is responsible for providing an integration package which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accommodation. • advice and assistance covering employment, welfare benefits, housing, health, education and utility supply. • registration with GPs and Job Centre Plus. • assistance in securing school places for children. • financial support. <p>The housing needs team will be responsible for securing accommodation and providing support for the family.</p> <p>The housing needs team have experience of successfully resettling families under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The team are also responsible for the UK Resettlement Scheme that will assist three refugee families to relocate to the Vale of White Horse in 2021.</p> <p>The additional resources required to participate in the Afghan Resettlement Scheme will be met from within the housing needs team.</p>
Background papers considered	None
Declarations/conflict of interest? Declaration of other councillor/officer consulted by the Cabinet member?	None

List consultees	Name	Outcome	Date
Ward councillors	n/a		
Legal	n/a		
Finance	Emma Creed	Agreed.	09/08/2021
Human resources	n/a		
Diversity and equality	n/a		
Climate and biodiversity	n/a		
Communications	n/a		
Senior Management Team		Agreed.	18/08/2021
Confidential decision? If so, under which exempt category?	No		
Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?	n/a		
Has this been discussed by Cabinet members?	Discussed with the cabinet member for healthy communities and the leader of the council.		
Leader of the Council's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Signature ___ E Smith _____ Date _____ 18 August 2021 _____		

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

For Democratic Services office use only		
Form received	Date: 18 August 2021	Time: 16:50
Date published to all councillors	Date: 23 August 2021	
Call-in deadline	Not applicable as this is not a key decision.	

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.