

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	Cllr Helen Pighills Cabinet member for healthy communities
Key decision?	Yes
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	14 February 2023
Name and job title of officer requesting the decision	Diane Foster Licensing and Community Safety Manager
Officer contact details	Tel: 07801 203520 Email: diane.foster@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision	To enter into a partnering agreement with Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner relating to a pooled budget for the provision of domestic abuse services in Oxfordshire.
Reasons for decision	<p>Latest figures from Thames Valley Police show that there were 1,432 recorded victims of domestic abuse in the Vale of White Horse in 2021, although the estimated number of victims is over 5,000. Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse is a priority for the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 local authorities have duties relating to the provision of domestic abuse support. We are required to work with the county council to assist with this and receive funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for the delivery of domestic abuse support.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has commissioned a service to provide support services for victims of domestic abuse in Oxfordshire. The service has recently been commissioned by a competitive tendering process and is due to commence on 1 April 2023 for a period of 3 years, with an option to extend for a further 2 years and the partnering agreement mirrors this.</p>

Alternative options rejected	Not to enter the agreement – this would result in a failure to meet our responsibilities under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021			
Climate and ecological implications	N/A			
Legal implications	The partnering agreement is for a period of three years with an option to extend for a further two years. There is an eight month notice break clause within the agreement.			
Financial implications	<p>The partnering agreement requires the council to contribute £25,500 per annum for the provision of domestic abuse support services.</p> <p>We receive funding from DLUHC for work relating to supporting victims of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Funding for 2023/24 has been confirmed as £37,109 and £37,808 for 2024/25. Additionally we received £35,196 in 2022/23 and £35,167 in 2021/22 which has been moved into earmarked reserves and to be used for the contribution for this partnering agreement.</p> <p>There is a break clause within the partnering agreement with an eight month notice period should the funding from DLUHC be discontinued.</p>			
Other implications	None			
Background papers considered	None			
Declarations/ conflict of interest? Declaration of other councillor/ officer consulted by the Cabinet member?				
List consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Legal legal@southandvale.gov.uk	Patrick Arran	Agreed	27 January 2023
	Finance Finance@southandvale.gov.uk	Maggie Xu	Financial implications been checked and agreed	7/2/2023
	Human resources hadminandpayroll@southandvale.gov.uk	N/A		
	Climate and biodiversity	N/A		

	climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk			
	Diversity and equality equalities@southandvale.gov.uk	Lynne Mitchell	Supports the partnership agreement	27 January 2023
	Strategic property Property@southandvale.gov.uk	N/A		
	Health and safety healthandsafety@southandvale.gov.uk	N/A		
	Risk and insurance risk@southandvale.gov.uk	N/A		
	Communications communications@southandvale.gov.uk	N/A		
Confidential decision? If so, under which exempt category?	No			
Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?	No			
Has this been discussed by Cabinet members?	No			
Cabinet portfolio holder's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Signature _____ Helen Pighills _____ Date _____ 14 February 2023 _____			

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

For Democratic Services office use only		
Form received	Date: 15 February 2023	Time: 09:20
Date published to all councillors	Date: 15 February 2023	
Call-in deadline	Date: 22 February 2023	Time: 17:00

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 (except government grant) 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.