

## Delegated authority officer decision notice

Request to spend S106 funding under section 106 application reference: P24/V0770/106  
Oxfordshire County Council – Secondary Education Contribution

Vale of White Horse District Council  
Infrastructure Implementation and Funding – Strategic Finance

<b>Decision made by</b>	Simon Hewings – Head of Finance
<b>Lead officer contact details</b>	Silke More O’Ferrall – Infrastructure Implementation Officer
<b>Decision</b>	<p>To create a budget for <b>£758,753</b> from S106 contributions (Secondary Education) and release the funds to <b>Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)</b> towards the construction of a new secondary school at Grove Airfield site under 74 of council’s financial procedure rules.</p> <p>and to enter into a funding agreement in the form of a Third Party Funding Agreement, with Oxfordshire County Council and thereafter to release funds, subject to receipt of the signed third party funding agreement.</p>
<b>Property address If a council asset, include Asset ID</b>	<p>Oxfordshire County Council is the county council – local authority for Oxfordshire and county planning authority for the area in which the Site is situated and has sundry powers and duties in respect of education.</p> <p>Site Location: Land at Grove Airfield, Denchworth Road, Grove</p>
<b>Key decision?</b>	Yes
<b>If key decision, has call-in been waived by the Scrutiny Committee chair(s)?</b>	
<b>Confidential decision, and if so under which exemption category?</b>	No
<b>Delegated authority reference from the constitution</b>	<p><b>Constitution May 2024</b></p> <p><b>Section 106 and community infrastructure levy (CIL) income and related expenditure</b></p>

	<p>Page 222-223 Constitution of South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council – 23 May 2024 Financial procedure rules</p> <p>74. For section 106 or CIL agreements that provide clear and unambiguous details on how the receipts raised must be used, where that agreement has been approved by the Planning Committee and over which further discretion cannot be applied then the head of finance can approve the creation of the relevant revenue or capital budget.</p> <p>The S106 agreement (16V67) under which £758,753.12 has been paid to the district council is “clear and unambiguous” about how the contribution is to be used (Secondary Education Contribution - towards the construction of a new secondary school at Grove Airfield site) and the planning decision was made by the Planning Committee (24 August 2016), over which further discretion cannot be applied.</p>
<b>Risks</b>	None identified – The proposed project has commenced and is due for completion in September 2025.
<b>Reasons for decision</b>	<p>New Grove Airfield Secondary School (600 place).</p> <p>The project is currently in construction, with an estimated completion date provided for September 2025. Details of the project is set out in attachment 1 – Business case report (G2-FBC Full Business Case / Commit to Spend, dated 08/03/2023).</p> <p>The Secondary Education Contribution of £714,000 was secured through the Section 106 Agreement (16V67) between Vale of White Horse District Council and the owner of the Land west of Station Road (A338) South of Williams Grand Prix Engineering developed under planning permission P15/V1722/O, dated 24 August 2016.</p> <p>However, as Oxfordshire County Council was not a party to this agreement, the monies were secured and collected by Vale of White Horse District Council on behalf of the county council with the intention that the sum would be transferred when required. This sum has been received by Vale of White Horse District Council and, with indexation totalled <b>£758,753.12</b>.</p>
<b>Alternative options rejected</b>	The S106 Secondary Education Contribution is intended explicitly to be used towards the construction of a new secondary school at Grove Airfield site as defined in the S106 agreement (16V67).
<b>Climate and ecological implications</b>	Planning permission approval was granted under the Reserved Matters application P23/V1928/RM ((21 March 2024) (Outline Consent P17/V3130/FUL/ P12/V0299/O)) for the construction of a new secondary school. We are unable to influence climate and ecological implications not considered at planning application stage in order to release the section 106 education provision to Oxfordshire County Council towards the project.

<p><b>Legal implications</b></p>	<p>The release of the Secondary Education Contribution is determined in the section 106 Agreement under The District Council's Obligations: -</p> <p>S106 agreement (16V67) is defined in the seventh Schedule, paragraph 1.4 – “The District Council covenants with the Owner that upon receipt of the County Council Contributions or any part thereof it shall take such steps as reasonably necessary to secure that no County Council Contributions shall be applied for any purpose other than that for which it is stated to be used in this Deed (or any alternative which achieves similar benefits where agreed by the Owner and the District Council)”</p> <p>Transfer of this funding is not considered a subsidy as Oxfordshire County Council and third party recipient New Grove Airfield Secondary School are not an organisation who are selling goods or services on the market as an economic enterprise.</p> <p>For financial assistance to be a subsidy it must meet four specific conditions. One of these conditions is for the financial assistance to confer an economic advantage on one or more enterprises. This has two components. The recipient of the assistance must be an enterprise, which is any entity that is engaged in an economic activity, which means offering goods and services on a market. Government Guidance on Subsidy Control states that Education services organised within the national education system, which are both funded through public funds and supervised by the UK Government, are not considered to be economic activities for the purposes of the subsidies control regime. The Government Guidance also states, as a rule, public funding for infrastructure that delivers a general public benefit, and which is not intended to be used primarily to carry out an economic activity will not fall within the scope of the subsidies control regime. Therefore, the funding is not considered to be a subsidy.</p> <p>It is recommended that Vale of White Horse District Council enters into a Third Party Funding Agreement with Oxfordshire County Council to govern the release of funds.</p>
<p><b>Financial implications</b></p>	<p>The proposed project conforms to the spending parameters of the S106 agreement and is a suitable use of the funds.</p> <p>Finance have confirmed that the requested funding is available.</p> <p>The project is included in Oxfordshire County Council's Capital Programme and will follow their necessary governance process for funding approvals, where necessary – reference: ED965 (WBS C.AE10068.01). Technical approvals are not considered to be required as the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) are delivering the school. County Council will enter into a Legal agreement with the ESFA, to agree to pass funding across to the ESFA on completion of the school.</p>

<b>Equalities implications</b>	Planning permission approval was granted under the Reserved Matters application P23/V1928/RM ((21 March 2024) (Outline Consent P17/V3130/FUL/ P12/V0299/O)) for the construction of a new secondary school. We are unable to influence equalities implications not considered at planning application stage in order to release the section 106 education provision to Oxfordshire County Council towards the project.
<b>Other implications</b>	None identified.
<b>Background papers considered</b>	
<b>Declarations/ conflict of interest?</b>	None
<b>Proposed action plan assuming grant of authority</b>	On approval, arrange completion of the Third Party Funding Agreement with Oxfordshire County Council. Funding to be released and monitored in-line with the agreed terms to ensure the necessary evidence of spend is received and recorded.

<b>Consultees:</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>Outcome / Comment</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<i>Statutory</i>	Legal – Sarah Commins <a href="mailto:legal@southandvale.gov.uk">legal@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	The proposed use of funds is in accordance with the provisions of the S106 and the proposed Compliance of Conditions letter will govern the release of funds to Oxfordshire County Council	17/05/2024
<i>Statutory</i>	Finance – Emma Creed <a href="mailto:Finance@southandvale.gov.uk">Finance@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	I can confirm the contribution is available.	03/05/2024
<i>Statutory</i>	Climate and biodiversity – Kim Hall <a href="mailto:climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk">climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	No comment from Climate & Biodiversity team.	10/05/2024
<i>Statutory</i>	Equality and diversity - Abi Witting, Trina Mayling, Ruth Lewin-Leigh <a href="mailto:equalities@southandvale.gov.uk">equalities@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Thank you for sharing the S106 document with us. Since this is a retrospective matter, there are limited comments we can provide at this time.	14/05/2024
<i>Statutory</i>	Communications – Victoria Nickless <a href="mailto:communications@southandvale.gov.uk">communications@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Information noted	03/05/2024
<i>Statutory</i>	Property – Karen Lister <a href="mailto:property@southandvale.gov.uk">property@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	There are no comments to be made from Strategic Property.	07/05/2024
<i>Statutory</i>	Cabinet member Cllr Andy Crawford	Emailed spend notification	08/05/2024
<i>Statutory</i>	Ward Councillor Cllr Ron Batstone Cllr Kiera Bentley	Emailed spend notification	08/05/2024
<i>Required</i>	Stuart Walker – Planning	Thanks for the consultation. No comments to make.	07/05/2024

<i>Required</i>	Adrian Duffield – Head of Planning	Approved at S106/CIL Applications Meeting	23/05/2024
<b>Decision maker's signature</b> To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Simon Hewings – Head of Finance	Signature: Simon Hewings Date: 07/06/2024	

## IMPORTANT NOTES TO OFFICERS:

1. You need to ask your head of service (or above) to determine whether this is a key decision. The constitution specifies a key decision as a decision of Cabinet, an individual Cabinet member or an officer acting under delegated powers, which is likely to:
  - (a) incur expenditure, make savings or to receive income (except government grant) of more than £75,000; or
  - (b) award a revenue or capital grant of over £25,000; or
  - (c) agree an action that, in the view of the chief executive or the 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.
2. If this is a key decision (as defined in paragraph 1 above), immediately after it is signed off, send it to [democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk) to allow the councillors' scrutiny call-in procedure to commence. You cannot implement a key decision until the scrutiny call-in procedure has been completed. You will receive a copy of the email to councillors. Check with Democratic Services after the close of the call-in period to see if the decision has been called-in.
3. If this is a key decision but the Scrutiny Committee Chair(s) has waived call-in, immediately after it is signed off send it to [democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk) to allow councillors to be informed that a key decision has been made and scrutiny call-in waived. You may then implement the decision without further delay.
4. If this is a non-key decision, save this decision notice to your network drive for audit purposes (Democratic Services do not need a copy). You may implement the decision immediately.