
OSP POST-CABINET DECISION SCRUTINY - VATTENFALL COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECT

To: **Overview & Scrutiny Panel – 21 October 2014**

Main Portfolio Area: **Operational Services**

By: **Senior Democratic Services Officer**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Cliffsend and Pegwell, Central Harbour, Eastcliff**

Summary: **The report introduces a post decision scrutiny request regarding a Cabinet decision on the Vattenfall Community Funding Project that was approved on 11 September 2014.**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 On 11 September 2014 Cabinet considered a report on the Vattenfall Community Funding Project and agreed the following:
- a) That £50k of the Vattenfall funding be allocated to the replacement of the play area in Cliffsend and that £40k be allocated to the Ramsgate, Eastcliff and Westcliff Gardens project. The remaining £3k will be allocated to support the project management and delivery of the two projects.
 - b) To approve a variation to the use of the Vattenfall grant fund from that which was agreed in the 2010 budget report to allow for the above projects to be delivered. The original project proposal for a raised walkway will not therefore be taken forward.
- 1.2 The Cabinet decision was capable of being called-in by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, but Democratic Services did not receive a call-in request for that decision.
- 1.3 The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel has now made a request for post decision scrutiny of that decision.
- 1.4 Post-decision, or “post-hoc” scrutiny, is one of the tools available to an Overview & Scrutiny Panel, to review the process by which a decision has been taken and the evidence behind the decision. Such a review can also consider the implementation of the decision. Call-in suspends a decision until a review has been completed, usually with a view to recommending that a different decision be taken. In contrast, post-decision scrutiny allows implementation to proceed, but reviews the decision process and outcome, to determine if there are learning points that need to be taken forward.

2.0 The Reasons for Post Decision Scrutiny

- 2.1 The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel received a query from Cliffsend Parish Council and Pegwell Residents Association regarding the

decision made by Cabinet. These stakeholders queried the process and protocol that was used in allocating the fund. They felt that as members of the original multi-agency committee that was formed to oversee the original project, they should have been included in the recent discussions regarding the Vattenfall Community Funding Project prior to Cabinet making a decision on the matter.

- 2.2 The stakeholders would like the Panel to scrutinise the criteria that used in allocating the Vattenfall Community Fund and share their findings with the public. They would also want to know why the original committee was not involved this time around. In considering this issue the Panel may wish to refer to the Cabinet report in Annex 1 to this Panel report.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 Members of the Panel may wish to debate this issue and review the protocol for allocating similar funds in future and make recommendations to Cabinet.
- 3.2 Members may opt to set up a formal Working Party and study the issue in depth and make recommendations to the Panel for onward submission to Cabinet.
- 3.3 The Panel may after consideration of this issue decide to take no further action.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

- 4.1.1 These are as set out in the Cabinet report, in Annex 1 to the report.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 These are as set out in the Cabinet report, in Annex 1 to the report.

4.4 Equity and Equalities

- 4.4.1 These are as set out in the Cabinet report, in Annex 1 to the report.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 With reference to the options in Section 3 of the report, Members' guidance is sought regarding this matter.

6.0 Decision Making Process

- 6.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Panel can carry-out a post-decision review of a Cabinet decision and make recommendations back to Cabinet on lessons learnt or make proposals for how future decisions on similar matters could best be handled.

Contact Officer:	Charles Hungwe, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Ext 7186
Reporting to:	Glenn Back, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager, Ext 7187

Annex List

Annex 1	Cabinet Report Vattenfall Funded Project – 11 September 2014
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	N/A
Legal	N/A