

## Chief Executive Decision

### Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Executive Portfolio Holder      Jason Baker, Chairman of Area East Committee  
Director:                              Kirsty Larkins, Director (Service Delivery)  
Lead Officer:                         Adrian Moore (Locality Officer)  
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#### Purpose of the Report

To confirm the recommendation of members of the Area West Committee relating to Blackdown Hill (AONB) following consideration at a meeting of Area West Committee (Informal) on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

#### Public Interest

At the meeting of Full Council on Thursday 15 April 2021 it was agreed to make the following changes to the Council's Constitution:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology;
- b) To amend Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution to allow those remote meetings to function as consultative bodies and delegate decisions, including Executive and Quasi-Judicial decisions, that would have been taken by those meetings if the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had continued in force to the Chief Executive (or the relevant Director in the Chief Executive's absence) in consultation with those meetings and those members to whom the decision would otherwise have been delegated under Part 3 of the Constitution;
- c) The delegated authority given under (b) will expire on 31 July 2021 unless continued by a future decision of this Council;

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#### Decision Taken

The Chief Executive, following a consultative meeting by the Area West Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 made the following decision;

That the Chief Executive confirmed the continuation of the SSDC contribution to the core funding of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership of £6,000 in 2021/22.

#### Reason

To continue the SSDC contribution to the core funding of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership in 2021/22.

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## **Background**

To enable the decision making process to continue, it was agreed that Councillors continue to receive decision-making reports. They will form a view which will be communicated to the Chief Executive. The decision will be formally made by the Chief Executive (or relevant Director) during the current coronavirus restrictions.

## **Financial Implications**

Like the other local authorities that make up the partnership, SSDC continues to contribute an annual grant towards the running costs of the AONB and has already agreed to adopt the AONB five-year Management Plan 2019-2024. The agreed financial contribution of £6,000 per annum has been funded through existing budgets in 2020/21.

If this £6,000 award is agreed, funding will be paid from the existing Area West 21/22 budget.

## **Background Papers**

Officer Report – Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=426&MId=3010&Ver=4>