

Chief Executive Decision

Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update

Executive Portfolio Holder Jason Baker, Chairman of Area West Committee
Director: Kirsty Larkins, Service Delivery
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Purpose of the Report

To confirm the recommendation of members of the Area West Committee relating to the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update, following consideration at a meeting of Area West Committee (Informal) held on 18th May 2022.

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;

Further to the above, at the meeting of Full Council on 8 July 2021, it was agreed to continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology and to extend the delegation given on 15 April 2021 for a further 6 months, to 08 January 2022; and at the Council meeting of 16 December 2021, a further extension to 8 July 2022 was agreed.

Decision Taken

The Chief Executive, following a consultative meeting by the Area West Committee (Informative) on 18th May 2022, made the following decision;

To continue SSDC contribution to the core funding of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership of £6,000 in 2022/23.

Reason: To continue the SSDC contribution to the core funding of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership in 2022/23.

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.

Background Papers

Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update (Executive Decision)

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=426&MId=3246&Ver=4>