

**Officer
Decision Record**



This form records an officer decision and is published in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

Decision Maker:	Suzan Harrington Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning (in the absence of the Chief Executive)
Lead Officer:	Martin Grainger, Head of Planning & Interim Head of Regulatory Services
Title of Decision:	Drawdown of £127k from the contingency reserve fund to support additional technical highway work required for Local Plan
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Type of Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Key decision <input type="checkbox"/> Non key decision discharging (or connected to the discharge of) an Executive function <input type="checkbox"/> Specific delegation from Council or Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Grant of permission / licence <input type="checkbox"/> Affecting the rights of an individual <input type="checkbox"/> Awarding a contract or incurring expenditure which materially affects the financial position of the Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision under urgency
Details of decision:	<p>On 4 August the Executive approved the Publication Local Plan consultation document. This report also covered the financial requirements relating to the Local Plan. The report included that the executive recommends to Council the drawdown of £313k of funding to finish work on the plan. This was approved.</p> <p>The Council has a specific budget for the preparation of the Local Plan and associated development plan documents. To date the work required to support the preparation of a new Local Plan has been delivered within the budgets established for this purpose when work commenced in 2019. However, as work has</p>

progressed a number of additional technical studies have been necessary to address concerns raised by Consultees, this includes additional work on highways modelling, viability and the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment. In order to complete the Publication Local Plan consultation and progress it through to Submission and Examination additional resources will be required as set out below:

	Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance
21/22 c/f	291,852		
22/23 Budget	122,000		
22/23 Revised Budget	413,852	609,977	196,125
23/24 Budget	60,000	90,314	30,314
24/25 Budget	0	86,000	86,000
Total	473,852	786,291	312,439

Having reviewed all the forecasts for the Local Plan work with the Council's finance team it is estimated that we will exhaust the Local Plan budget reserves by the end of Quarter 2 this financial year. Our current projected spend for Q1 and Q2 2022/23 is £409,283 against the full year reserve budget of £413,852.

We have further urgent work which we need to commission on highways to inform the submission version of the Plan, which we aim to submit to the Secretary of State in February 2023. We have received briefs for the additional element of the highways work which totals £126,523. Following the decision at Executive and with the Council decision pending we don't yet have any approvals to spend additional funds. If we were to commission this work now it will be completed by the end of December, however a further delay will mean that it will not be ready to inform the papers for the Full Council meeting in February.

RESOLVED:

That as the matter is urgent, and the decision cannot await a full meeting of Council due to the timetable for the Local Plan, that £127k of the recommended £313k is drawn down immediately from the contingency reserve fund to support urgent technical work.

Reason for decision:

This urgent decision is needed to ensure that the Local Plan can be progressed in line with agreed timeframes and submission before vesting day.

Alternative options considered and rejected:	Delaying the work being carried out until Council considers a further report reviewing the Local Plan budget allocation would present a high risk that the timetable for submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State prior to vesting date may not be achieved.
Member Interests: <i>(Name of any Member who has declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision and details of any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service if appropriate)</i>	
Legal, Financial or other implications:	The decision is made by the Director in the absence of the Chief Executive under para 3.8.4 Part 3 to the Constitution. The situation is urgent and therefore following consultation with the Leader, under 3.8.3(k)(i) Part 3 of the Constitution enables the decision to be taken if the Chief Executive (or Director in this case) considers it seriously affects the functions of the Council and/or the wellbeing of the Council's area, then it will be reported to the next Council meeting.
Background papers:	None.
Contact details for further information:	Martin Grainger, Head of Planning and Interim Head of Regulatory Services mgrainger@selby.gov.uk Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer (SDC) kiveson@selby.gov.uk
Signed:	<p><i>Signature redacted</i></p> <p>Suzan Harrington, Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning sharrington@selby.gov.uk</p>
Date of Decision:	1 September 2022