

Reporting of Urgent Decisions

Report of the Democracy and Governance Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That Council notes the urgent decisions set out in the Annex to this report, which were taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader.

SUMMARY:

- The Council's constitution delegates power to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to take decisions in urgent or emergency situations.
- This power is subject to reporting those decisions back to Council, Cabinet or the Committee concerned.
- This report contains details of urgent decisions made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader which Council is asked to note.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The need has periodically arisen for urgent decisions to be taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to take some urgent decisions in order to facilitate and implement a number of government schemes and grants which provided financial support for various groups.
- 1.2 These decisions must be reported back to Council, Cabinet or the Committee concerned and this report fulfils that requirement.

2 Background

- 2.1 Under the constitution Portfolio Holder and the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader is delegated power to take urgent decisions.
- 2.2 Delegation (2) of the "Delegations to Chief Executive" reads:

"To do anything, in consultation with the Leader, which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of the Council's functions subject to:

 - (i) the matter being regarded as an emergency or urgent situation; and
 - (ii) a report back to the Council, Cabinet or Committee concerned.
- 2.3 "Functions retained by the Leader and Delegations to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holders" as set out in the Constitution provides for:

2.4 (2) That subject to the Council's Constitution, the Leader retains the following functions:

- (e) the determination (within the Budget and Policy Framework set by full Council) of all matters relating to executive functions delegated to the Cabinet, to Portfolio Holders or to officers, where there is no convenient meeting of the Cabinet or individual available (or willing) to exercise their delegated power; and

2.5 The requirement to deliver government grants in a timely fashion can properly be considered an "emergency or urgent situation" for the purposes of the above delegation.

2.6 Some of these decisions were by their very nature urgent and others had no Council, Cabinet or Committee meeting to which they could be brought as legislation had yet to be passed enabling Council meetings to take place remotely. The Chief Executive therefore took the required decisions in consultation with the Leader.

2.7 As well as the national emergency a number of urgent decisions have been taken following the end of Coronavirus restrictions. These decisions have been taken in order to respond to, and administer a number of urgent Government schemes in a timely manner where there was no convenient meeting of the Cabinet to which to bring this matter.

2.8 The following decisions were made under the power delegated to the Chief Executive:

1. 10 October 2020 Test and Trace Support Payments
2. 26 March 2021 Support for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Individuals Funding
3. 12 January 2022 Delegation of Authority to the Head of Community and Leisure Services to administer the Local Authority Practical Support Fund
4. 17 January 2022 Administration of the Omicron hospitality & Leisure Grant and the Additional Restrictions Grant
5. 13 February 2022 Household Support Fund and Vulnerable Rents Grant - Financial Support Scheme
6. 29 March 2022 Administration of the 'Support for Energy Bills - the Council Tax rebate 2022-23' mandatory and discretionary schemes
7. 27 May 2022 Homes for Ukraine Scheme Funding and Local Support Offer

2.9 Copies of the Written Statements of Decision are attached as an Annex to this report, numbered as per the list above. Each Statement sets out the full details of the decision made and the reasons for that decision.

2.10 All decisions are available on the Council's website.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

3.1 The appended decisions were necessary to enable the Council to continue to fulfil its functions, cutting across all of the Council's corporate objectives and priorities at a time of national emergency.

4 Consultations/Communications

4.1 No consultation has taken place on this report. Any consultation undertaken will be recorded in each individual Statement of Decision.

5 Options and Option Appraisal

5.1 This report is for noting only. The decisions have been made and implemented. The decisions made pursuant to the urgency delegation are required to be reported to Council.

6 Risk Management

6.1 A Risk Management questionnaire has been completed and indicates this report does not require a risk assessment because the changes/issues covered by this report are not significant in terms of risk or have previously been considered.

7 Resource Implications

7.1 There are no resource implications of this report. The resource implications of each particular decision are, where appropriate, considered in each Written Statement of Decision.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 Similarly, there are no legal implications of this report. Any legal issues which were taken account in the decision making are recorded in the individual Written Statements of Decision. The Council's Constitution requires those decisions to be reported back to Council, Cabinet or other Committee.

9 Equality Issues

9.1 No equality issues arise as a result of this report. Any equality issues arising as a result of the individual decisions appended are addressed within each Statement of Decision.

10 Other Issues

10.1 No other issues are apparent.

11 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 11.1 This document reports to Council the urgent decisions taken by the Leader and urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader during the period of emergency presented by the Coronavirus (Covid 19) pandemic and to deal with the provision of urgent government schemes. Council is asked to formally note this report.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u> Written Statements of Decision as Annexed to this report.			
<u>Confidentiality</u> It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Democracy and Governance) Councillor I Jeffrey			
Officer:	Karen Dunn	Ext:	8401
Report to:	Council	Date:	16 November 2022