

## COUNCIL

22 NOVEMBER 2022

### REPORT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

#### **A.3 EXECUTIVE DECISION(S) TAKEN AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

##### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

###### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To notify Members of recent Executive Decision(s) taken in the circumstances set out in the Council's Constitution in:-

- (a) Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Special Urgency); and/or
- (b) Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call-in and Urgency); and/or
- (c) Rule 6(b) of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

###### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In accordance with the requirements of Rule 16.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and/or Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and/or Rule 6(b) of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, this report notifies Members of recent Executive Decision(s) taken in the circumstances set out in Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and/or Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

###### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the contents of the report be noted.**

##### **PART 2 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

###### **BACKGROUND**

The "Special Urgency" procedure in Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules provides that where a key decision cannot be reasonably deferred to allow the procedure in Rule 14 (General Exception) of those procedure rules to be followed, it may still be taken with the agreement of the Chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee, or failing him/her, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules provides that the "call-in" procedure will not apply to a decision if the Chairman, or failing him/her the Vice-Chairman, of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee agrees both that the decision is reasonable in all its circumstances and that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.

## **DECISION(S) TAKEN AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

### **(1) Local Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund Scheme for Business Rates for 2021/22**

On 23 September 2022, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock OBE), in view of the urgency of the issue concerned, and in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and Rule 18(i) of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules, sought and subsequently obtained the Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's (Councillor M E Stephenson) consent that his decision relating to the approval of a local Covid-19 additional relief fund scheme for Business Rates for 2021/22 be taken under the Council's "Special Urgency" procedure and that it also be exempted from the call-in procedure.

The Leader of the Council's decision was as follows:-

*"That a Local Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund Scheme 2021/22 be adopted."*

It was felt that any delay likely to be caused by the usual key decision forward plan and call-in process would have seriously prejudiced the Council's and the public's interest for the following reason:-

*"In accordance with the associated legislation, the proposed local relief scheme for 2021/22 had to be adopted before 30 September 2022."*

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **(1) Local Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund Scheme for Business Rates for 2021/22**

Letter dated 23 September 2022 from the Leader of the Council, to the Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reply dated 26 September 2022 from the Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee signifying his consent to allow the Leader of the Council's decision to be taken under the "Special Urgency" Procedure and to be exempt from call-in.

## **APPENDICES**

None.