

COUNCIL

17 SEPTEMBER 2024

REPORT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

A.1 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

Approval of the format and design of the Careline Consultation

On 20 August 2024, the Partnerships Portfolio Holder and myself, in view of the urgency of the issue concerned, and in accordance with Rule 18(i) of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules, and through the offices of the Head of People, sought and subsequently obtained the Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consent, that our joint decision relating to the approval of the format and design of the Careline consultation, be exempted from the call-in procedure.

The Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and my joint decision was as follows:-

“To formally agree the format and design of the Careline consultation (in consultation with the Assistant Director for Partnerships and the Assistant Director for Governance).”

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

“A delay in the Authority's ability to commence consultation with Careline Customers, key Stakeholders, and residents on the proposals as outlined in the Cabinet Report 26 July 2024 would hinder the reaching of a timely resolution.

This consultation was based upon balancing best value principles with the needs of our existing customers, who now have a wider range of options available on the open market, at more comparable rates than the Council can continue to supply the service for.”

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Paul Honeywood)'s consent to allow the Leader of the Council's and the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships' joint decision to be exempt from call-in.

APPENDICES

None