

COUNCIL

13 OCTOBER 2026

REPORT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

A.2 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 this 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

Corporate Insurance Arrangements: Transitional Modification

On 30 September 2026, in view of the urgency of the issue concerned, and in accordance with Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call-in and Urgency), the Corporate Director (Finance & IT), acting on my behalf, sought and subsequently obtained the Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consent, that my urgent decision, on behalf of the Cabinet relating to the Council's corporate insurance arrangements would be exempted from the call-in procedure.

My decision was as follows:-

"On behalf of the Cabinet and using special urgency powers, in accordance with Parts 3 and 5.8, of the Council's Constitution, the Leader of the Council hereby formally:

- a) acknowledges the applicability and criteria set out within of Section 72(1)(c) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 to the decision being proposed;*
- b) notes and acknowledges that the information set out within the Officer's report and Appendix thereto successfully demonstrates its applicability to the proposal to modify the Council's existing insurance arrangements;*
- c) agrees the proposed modification to extend for a period of one year (from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027), the Council's existing corporate insurance arrangements;*
- d) authorises the Corporate Director (Finance and IT) to make the necessary arrangements to implement the proposals set out within the Officer report and its Appendix including the requirement to undertake a full competitive procurement exercise as soon as reasonably practicable once the future requirement and timetable are sufficiently clear; and*
- e) authorises publication of any contract modification notice that may be required by the Public Contract / Procurement Regulations."*

It was felt 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 reasons:-

"The Council would not have had in place secure uninterrupted corporate insurance cover from 1 October 2026, and the Council must maintain appropriate insurance protection for its assets, liabilities, employees and for operational reasons."

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's (Councillor Paul Honeywood) consent to allow the urgent decision of the Leader of the Council to be exempted from call-in.

APPENDICES

None