



## **EXERCISE OF URGENT POWERS PROTOCOL**

The following decisions are urgent and cannot await a meeting whilst the Covid-19 pandemic continues. The reasons for them are that due to the recently declared Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting fast changing national situation, robust contingency plans need to be in place to ensure that decisions can be made quickly to ensure that the Council complies with its legal duties and continues to provide its services.

Under the Council's Protocol for the Exercise of Urgent Powers the following decisions have been made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Group Leaders:

**(1) Pay Policy 2020/21**

**AGREED**

That the annual Pay Policy for 2020/21 be approved under the Urgent Powers Protocol.

**(2) Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21**

**AGREED**

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21 be approved under the Urgent Powers Protocol.

**(3) Leave of absence for Councillor Christian Wakeford**

A request had been received from Councillor Wakeford for approval of leave of absence. He had not attended a meeting since 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 and with the recent cancellation of meetings he would fall foul of the 6 months' rule.

**AGREED**

That the request be not approved.

**(4) Delegation to Officers**

It was proposed that a blanket delegation of all Council and Committee powers which could be lawfully delegated to officers be made to Directors and Service Managers. This would be in addition to the existing scheme of delegation set out in the Constitution.

This would not apply to the determination of planning applications. However it was suggested that the delegation to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory

Services Manager be amended to enable him, in consultation with the Chairman, to determine all applications (other than those which were for determination by the Policy and Resources Committee). This would mean removing the requirement where there were three or more objections for the application to go to committee and also the right for a committee Member to request that it goes to committee for determination. Members would still be able to make their views known on the merits of an application to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager and Chairman in considering their decision.

The proposal was that these would last until 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 unless otherwise reviewed. This did not replace the Council's Urgent Powers Protocol.

#### **AGREED**

- (1) That the blanket delegation be approved until 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2020.
- (2) That a system of remote meetings be investigated and established.
- (3) That the present delegation on determination of planning applications be retained subject to the removal of the requirement that if there were three objections an application be referred to committee but that committee members be informed of the objections and be allowed to make comments on them.

#### **(5) Reduction in Council Tax Liability S13A(1)(c) Local Government Finance Act 1992 Policy**

The Policy outlined the Council's approach to granting discretionary reductions in liability for Council Tax under Section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Policy was split into three parts: Council Tax Hardship Fund; Flood Recovery Framework; and Granting of Reductions in Council Tax Liability in all other circumstances.

#### **AGREED**

That the Policy be approved and that the Chief Financial Officer be granted delegated authority to amend the Policy as appropriate in line with any further changes in Government guidance.

#### **(6) Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant 2020/21**

The purpose of the above Policy was to determine eligibility and the process for paying the two new Direct Business Grants to Ratepayers in the Borough.

#### **AGREED**

That the Policy be approved and that the Chief Financial Officer be granted delegated authority to amend the Policy as appropriate in line with any further changes in Government guidance.

**(7) Re-Appointment of Vince Green as the Council's Chief Financial Officer**

**AGREED**

That Vince Green be re-appointed as the Council's Chief Financial Officer up until 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

Dean Langton,  
Chief Executive

Dated: April, 2020