

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMER, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

USE OF URGENCY PROCEDURES

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Policy Committee on the use of the Council's Urgency Procedures in the latest monitoring period (October 2019 – May 2020).

Information

2. The Constitution sets out procedures to deal with events which require a decision outside of a committee's normal cycle of meetings. The use of these procedures should periodically be reported to Policy Committee. The procedures enable urgent decisions by committee, calling an additional meeting of a committee or an urgent decision by the Chief Executive (the latter decisions are reported to the next meeting of the relevant committee).
3. The Chief Executive also has the power to take emergency decisions if necessary.
4. For information, there were no urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive or a committee and no additional meetings were called to deal with urgent matters in the previous monitoring period of April 2019 – September 2019.
5. Use of the Urgency Procedures in the latest period has been limited and appropriate and these procedures have only been utilised when it was in the public interest to do so.
6. The Chairman agreed to the following items being included on Policy Committee agendas, following publication of those agendas and prior to the meetings taking place:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Relevant Committee</u>	<u>Decision taken</u>	<u>Reason for Late Submission of Report</u>	<u>Reason for consideration as an urgent matter</u>
13/11/19	Policy Committee	Nottinghamshire Floods Hardship Fund	This issue had only arisen subsequent to the publication of the agenda for this meeting.	To update the Committee on the emergency decision taken by the Chief Executive at the earliest opportunity and to assist in the awareness raising of the Fund.
18/3/20	Policy Committee	Coronavirus – Short Term Refocussing of Council Activity	The situation with the virus had heightened since the publication of the agenda for this meeting.	To enable an appropriate response from the Council at the earliest opportunity.

18/3/20	Policy Committee	Disposal of land at Denewood Crescent, Bilborough	This issue had only arisen in recent days subsequent to the publication of the agenda for this meeting.	To enable the sale to take place on the agreed completion date of 27/3/20 and therefore achieve a significant capital receipt in 2019-20.
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7. The following emergency decision was taken by the Chief Executive:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Relevant Committee</u>	<u>Decision taken</u>	<u>Reason for Emergency Decision</u>
13/11/19	Policy Committee	Nottinghamshire Floods Hardship Fund	To enable the Fund to be established at the earliest opportunity to assist households and businesses affected by the floods.

8. The following urgent decisions were taken by the Chief Executive:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Relevant Committee</u>	<u>Decision taken</u>	<u>Reason for Urgency</u>
1/4/20	Children and Young People's Committee	Early Years Funding for the Private Voluntary and Independent Childcare Sector	To secure emergency funding (£300,000) to enable Private Voluntary and Independent early years settings to continue to provide funded childcare for eligible 2-4 year olds during a three week period (which included the Easter Holidays) where funding was not available from the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. This childcare was needed to support critical workers and vulnerable children during the COVID19 pandemic.
1/6/20	Adult Social Care and Health	Domestic Abuse Temporary Emergency Accommodation	N.B. Although this decision fell just outside of the monitoring period of October 2019-May 2020, this decision is also included for Members' information at the earliest opportunity. Evidence pointed to an expected surge in demand by those fleeing domestic abuse following the relaxation of the COVID-19 lockdown. The relaxation of lockdown measures for planning purposes had been assumed to be 1 June 2020. Existing refuge accommodation was full and with residents unable to move on because housing providers were unable to complete repairs because of the lockdown, or social distancing has meant it took longer to complete repairs and bring properties back into use. An urgent decision was therefore required to ensure provision from 1 June.

9. During the Coronavirus period, all Council meetings were cancelled. Where decisions have been required within specific timescales, meetings have been held virtually or at County Hall with social distancing rules observed as appropriate.

Other Options Considered

10. None – reporting on the use of the Urgency Procedures to Policy Committee is a Constitutional requirement.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. To enable the Committee to be updated on the use of the urgency procedures, in line with the Council's Constitution.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider whether any further information or actions are required in relation to the Council's urgency procedures in the latest monitoring period of October 2019 – May 2020.

Marjorie Toward

Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees

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Constitutional Comments (EH)

Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SES)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Signed records of individual urgent decisions.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All