

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET IN QUARTER 3 2020/21</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Richard Blunt Leader	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">Council's Constitution</a>  <a href="#">Cabinet Report – HR and Payroll System – 10 November 2020</a>  <a href="#">Cabinet Report – Discretionary Grant Funding – 26 November 2020</a>  <a href="#">Confidential Cabinet Report – Newmarket – 8 December 2020</a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Financial implications were taken into account by the Cabinet in reaching its decisions. <b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	Legal implications were taken into account by the Cabinet in reaching the decisions. <b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	There are no staffing and corporate implications <b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	In accordance with the Council's Constitution, to formally report that the Cabinet has taken decisions, which are considered to be urgent and, if delayed, would be likely to cause serious prejudice to the Council's interests.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT.</b>	

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Special Urgency Procedure in the Executive Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution states that, if the date by which an executive decision must be taken and the general exception Rule 16 cannot be followed, then the decision can only be taken if Cabinet has obtained the agreement of the relevant Scrutiny Chairman that the taking of the decision cannot be reasonably deferred. If the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee is unable to act, then the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, or in his/her absence the Deputy Chairman will suffice.
- 1.2 Under the Special Urgency Procedure, the Leader is required to submit a quarterly report to the Council on the executive decisions taken under rule 17 in the preceding three months. The report will include the number of decisions taken and a summary of the matter about which each decision was made.
- 1.3 The reporting timetable for 2020/21 is as follows:-

Q1			REPORT TO COUNCIL
April	May	June	8 September 2020
Q2			
July	August	Sept	17 November 2020
Q3			
Oct	Nov	Dec	23 February 2021
Q4			
Jan	Feb	Mar	11 May 2021

- 1.4 The Special Urgency decisions are detailed at section 2 of the report.
- 1.5 As set out in Rule 13(g)(i) (call-in urgency) of Part 4.6 of the Council's Constitution, the call-in procedure may be suspended where a decision being taken by the Cabinet is urgent. A decision is considered urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.
- 1.6 In all circumstances, the Chairman of the Council must agree that the decision is reasonable and must agree to the decision being treated as a matter of urgency.
- 1.7 Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be recorded in the minutes and be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.
- 1.8 Decisions that required the waiver of call- in are detailed at section 4 of the report.

## **2.0 SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS MADE DURING QUARTER 3**

- 2.1 One urgent executive decision was made during quarter 3 by the Cabinet. The decision was:-
- COVID-19 Support: Discretionary Grant Funding
- 2.2 In line with the Special Urgency Procedure the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision proposed was reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.
- 2.3 It was also agreed by the Chairman of the Council any delay caused by call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.
- 2.4 A summary of the decision is detailed below.

## **3.0 COVID-19 SUPPORT: DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUNDING – THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER**

- 3.1 At the time of writing the report, the Council had been granted £2.07m to cover discretionary grant support to businesses to March 2022. The funding was intended to cover the period of national restrictions from 5 November to 2 December 2020 and any further periods of national restrictions until March 2022. Local authorities are also able to utilise some of this funding to provide wider business support, although scheme design around this has been deferred. In addition, government had also confirmed that the Council would be provided further additional funding for supporting businesses on a discretionary basis when local restrictions, under a High or Very High (Tier 2 or 3) Covid-19 threat level is imposed.
- 3.2 In order to ensure businesses were supported throughout the period of national restrictions last November/December and subsequently through tiered restriction periods, the Council needed to design and approve its own grant schemes.

3.3 An urgent Cabinet meeting was arranged and Cabinet approved the ‘National Restrictions Discretionary Support Policy’ and the ‘Local Restrictions Discretionary Support Policy’. Delegation to the Section 151 Officer and Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration was also requested to update these policies in response to further guidance/clarification from government; to ensure smooth administration of the schemes; to vary the level of grant award to businesses and eligibility requirements to ensure fair distribution; and to vary the allocation of the Additional Restrictions Grant funds to the policies.

3.4 Since the meeting, various schemes have been launched to cover businesses on a discretionary basis through periods of national and local restrictions.

**4.0 WAIVER OF CALL-IN DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET**

4.1 Two executive decisions were taken by Cabinet, where the Chairman of the Council agreed that any delay caused by call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council’s or the public’s interests.

4.2 A summary of each decision made is detailed below:-

**5.0 AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE DELEGATION OF FUNCTION FROM HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE PROVISION OF A HR AND PAYROLL SYSTEM – THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER**

5.1 Since early in 2020 North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) have been working with Harborough District Council (HDC) HDC’s HR and Payroll system The parties agreed to proceed by way of delegation from HDC. This required a NWL Cabinet decision to accept the delegation

5.2 Cabinets approval was therefore sought. A Waiver from Call in was requested from the Chairman of the Council and approved in order that the implementation and onboarding could commence to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2021 Delegation date.

**6.0 NEWMARKET REFURBISHMENT CONTRACT UPDATE – TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER**

6.1 On 8 December 2020 Cabinet considered a confidential item, regarding the progress of the Newmarket refurbishment and the intention to open the market in Spring 2021. Due to the issues and timeframes described in the report any call in could have prejudiced the completion of the project.

6.2 The Chairman considered the timetable for confirmation and agreed that the matter was urgent for this reason.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs Developing a clean and green district Local people live in high quality, affordable homes Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	As detailed on each report that was considered by
Safeguarding:	Not applicable
Equalities/Diversity:	Not applicable

Customer Impact:	Not applicable
Economic and Social Impact:	Not applicable.
Environment and Climate Change:	Not applicable
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Chairmen of the relevant Scrutiny Committees Chairman of the Council
Risks:	To comply with Special Urgency Rule 17 of Part 4.3 of the Council's Constitution, the decisions made by Cabinet are to be reported to Council and Rule 13 (call-in urgency) of Part 4.6 of the Council's Constitution that suspensions of Call-In in relation to urgent decisions made by Cabinet are to be reported to Council.
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