

Title of Report	URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET IN QUARTER 4 2020/21	
Presented by	Councillor Richard Blunt Leader	
Background Papers	Council's Constitution Cabinet Report – 2 March 2021 - Authority to Award Green Homes Grant Phase 1B Improvement Contract Cabinet Report – 23 March 2021- Amendments to the Test and Trace Discretionary Policy Confidential Cabinet Report – 23 March 2021 – Needham’s Walk, Coalville Cabinet Report – 30 March 2021 - Additional Restrictions Grant	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	Financial implications were taken into account by the Cabinet in reaching its decisions. Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Legal implications were taken into account by the Cabinet in reaching the decisions. Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no staffing and corporate implications Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	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.	
Recommendations	THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT.	

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:-

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

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 4

2.1 One urgent executive decision was made during quarter 4 by the Cabinet. The decision was:-

- Additional Restrictions Grant

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 A summary of the decision is detailed below.

3.0 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT – TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 2021

3.1 In the March 2021 Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced new "Restart" grants for businesses in England. As part of this announcement, Government announced that there would be another £425 million of ARG funding distributed to local authorities but that this would be conditional on original allocations being spent by 30 June 2021, some nine months earlier than originally planned. The potential additional ARG grant in NW Leicestershire is approximately £750,000.

3.2 This changed timetable for spend posed a significant risk to our strategy for spending ARG money and we needed to develop plans to allow us to respond quickly to the

changing guidance. It was considered appropriate to take an urgent paper to Cabinet to accelerate plans that were already in development so that the Council would receive the additional funding and maximise the support available to businesses.

4.0 WAIVER OF CALL-IN DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET

4.1 Three 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 AWARD GREEN HOMES GRANT PHASE 1B IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT – TUESDAY, 2 MARCH 2021

5.1 On Tuesday, 2 March 2021, Cabinet considered an urgent report regarding the procurement implications of our successful award of Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHG LAD) Phase 1B funding. Through the scheme the Council secured £264k of grant funding to complete work to 56 Council tenants homes. The report sought delegated authority for the Strategic Director (Housing) in consultation with the Portfolio holder and S151 officer, to award contracts to complete the required work, and for a domestic energy assessor to support the assessment process.

5.2 As the energy efficiency works for which the grant funding has been allocated have to be completed by September 2021, any delay in procurement could have prejudice the successful delivery of the required improvement work, leading to a potential breach of the grant conditions. The matter was therefore agreed as an urgent item by the Chairman of the Council and was exempted from call in for the same reason.

6.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE TEST AND TRACE DISCRETIONARY POLICY – TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2021

6.1 On 23 March 2021, Cabinet considered an urgent report regarding amendments to the Discretionary Test and Trace policy. The Council receives a government grant to support those who are working but on low income and have been asked to self-isolate due to Covid, resulting in a loss of income.

6.2 The recommendations enabled minor changes to the scheme to increase eligibility for claimants. The report also delegated authority for the Strategic Director of Housing and Customer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make future changes to the scheme.

6.3 The item was heard urgently, so that the changes could be implemented both without delay, and also to harmonise administration with other Leicestershire Revenues and Benefits Partnership partners. A waiver from call in was also sought and approved from the Chairman of the Council, so that the revised eligibility could be implemented immediately.

6.4 Approval was given for a decision on this basis to avoid delay in paying eligible claimants, who otherwise might have been financial disenfranchised from mandatory self-isolation.

7.0 NEEDHAM'S WALK COALVILLE – TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2021

7.1 On Tuesday, 23 March, a confidential paper was presented to Cabinet seeking approval to legal matters which would allow a landowner to sell their land. The Chairman of the Council had previously agreed that in order not to disadvantage the owner by introducing additional procedural delay, Call-in provisions should be waived.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
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 Cabinet
Safeguarding:	As detailed on each report that was considered by Cabinet
Equalities/Diversity:	As detailed on each report that was considered by Cabinet
Customer Impact:	As detailed on each report that was considered by Cabinet
Economic and Social Impact:	As detailed on each report that was considered by Cabinet
Environment and Climate Change:	As detailed on each report that was considered by Cabinet
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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