

Title of Report	URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET	
Presented by	Allison Thomas Chief Executive	
Background Papers	Council's Constitution 2026/27 General Fund Budget and Council Tax – Cabinet – Tuesday, 17 February 2026 Biodiversity Duty Report – Cabinet – Tuesday, 24 March 2026 Freeport – Change of Accountable Body – Cabinet – Tuesday, 24 March 2026 Future of Rough Sleeping Provision – Cabinet – Tuesday, 24 March 2026	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	Financial implications were taken into account by the Cabinet in reaching its decisions.	
	Signed off by the Acting Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Legal implications were taken into account by the Cabinet in reaching its decisions.	
	Signed off by the Interim Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Staffing and Corporate implications were taken into account by Cabinet in reaching its decisions.	
	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 14 cannot be followed, then the decision can only be taken if Cabinet has obtained the agreement of the relevant Scrutiny Chair that the taking of the decision cannot be reasonably deferred. If the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee is unable to act, then the agreement of the Chair of the Council, or in his/her absence the Deputy Chair 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 15 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 2025/26 is as follows:-

			REPORT TO COUNCIL
Q1			16 September 2025
April	May	June	
Q2			4 November 2025
July	August	Sept	
Q3			19 February 2026
Oct	Nov	Dec	
Q4			12 May 2026
Jan	Feb	Mar	

- 1.4 The Special Urgency decisions are detailed at section 2 of the report.
- 1.5 As set out in Rule 15 (call-in urgency) of Part 3, Section D 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 Chair 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:-
- 2026/27 General Fund Budget and Council Tax
- 2.2 In line with the Special Urgency Procedure the Chair 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 2026/27 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX – TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026

3.1 On 9 February 2026, the Government announced the Final Finance Settlement for 2026/27, which incorporated substantial changes compared to the Provisional Finance Settlement issued in December 2025. This degree of modification was unprecedented, representing the first instance of such significant divergence between the Provisional and Final Settlements. Historically, any variations have been minor and communicated verbally to Council. Council was scheduled to review recommendations for the 2026/27 General Fund Budget at its meeting on 19 February 2026, with the subsequent Cabinet meeting set for 24 February 2026, following the Council meeting. In accordance with the Constitution, the Cabinet is required to make recommendations to Council regarding decisions of this magnitude. Consequently, postponing consideration until the next scheduled Cabinet meeting would not provide sufficient time to review and approve the necessary recommendations within statutory deadlines. Therefore, an extraordinary meeting of Cabinet was convened for 17 February 2026.

4.0 WAIVER OF CALL-IN DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET

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

- Biodiversity Duty Report – Cabinet – Tuesday, 24 March 2026
- Freeport – Change of Accountable Body – Cabinet – Tuesday, 24 March 2026
- Future of Rough Sleeping Provision – Cabinet – Tuesday, 24 March 2026

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

5.0 BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT – TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2026

5.1 The Chair of the Council granted exemption from the Council's Scrutiny Procedure rules in relation to the call-in of the decision on this item, since any call-in would prejudice the ability of the Council to publish its Biodiversity Duty Report by the statutory deadline of 25 March 2026. The urgency was generated by the late publication of details required for the report by Government which did not occur until late December. Allowing for drafting and scrutiny review, the March Cabinet was the earliest possible for the item to be considered and needed publication very shortly after the meeting was held.

6.0 FREEPORT – CHANGE OF ACCOUNTABLE BODY – TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2026

6.1 The Chair of the Council granted an exemption from the Council's Scrutiny Procedure rules in relation to the call-in of the decision on this item, since any call-in would prejudice the ability of the Council to confirm the provisional direction of the Council on or before the 1 April 2026. This was the government's proposed date of transfer of the Accountable Body of the Freeport from Leicestershire County Council to the East Midlands County Combined Authority. The Chair considered the timetable for confirmation of the Council's acceptance of this transfer and agreed that the matter before Cabinet was urgent for this reason.

7.0 FUTURE OF ROUGH SLEEPING PROVISION – TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2026

- 7.1 The Chair of the Council granted exemption of the Council's Scrutiny Procedure rules in relation to the call-in of the decision on this item, since any call-in would prejudice the ability of the Council to implement the decision to bring the outreach service in house in time for 1 April. The urgency was caused by a late budget clarification from Government and then the time taken by all District Councils across Leicestershire, plus Rutland County Council to consider their joint approach to the provision of Rough Sleeping support across the area. This led to uncertainty for the third-party provider and a number of staff employed to carry out the outreach service had handed in their notice. The exemption was necessary to enable the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) process of the remaining staff to take place.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Planning and regeneration Communities and housing Clean, green and Zero Carbon A well-run council
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, Climate Change and zero carbon:	As detailed on each report that was considered by Cabinet.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	As detailed on each report that was considered by Cabinet. Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chair of the Council
Risks:	To comply with Special Urgency Rule 15 of Part 3, Section C of the Council's Constitution, the decisions made by Cabinet are to be reported to Council and Rule 15 (call-in urgency) of Part 3, Section D 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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