

## **REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS 2017/2018**

**Councillor N Blake**

**Leader of the Council**

### **1. Purpose/Recommendation**

- 1.1. To note the position, as set out below, concerning items dealt with under the special urgency rules in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations, 2012, or in accordance with the Council's Constitution during the financial year 2017/2018.

### **2 Supporting Information**

- 2.1 The above Regulations specify procedures and timescales that have to be followed concerning public access to meetings and documents where a local authority executive, committee or individual is taking an executive decision.
- 2.2 Ordinarily, a specified period of notice of such meetings/items must be given as set out in the Regulations. However, provision is made within the Regulations to enable the consideration of items concerning which it is not possible to give the requisite notice. In particular, the special urgency provisions enable a key decision to be taken which is urgent where consent has been obtained from the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman.
- 2.3 It is a legislative requirement that Council be advised annually of the number of cases dealt with under the special urgency provisions. There was one such decision taken this year relating to the funding of infrastructure provision at the Silverstone Enterprise Zone. The request was received after the Cabinet agenda had been despatched and a decision was required within a very short time scale. The request was approved.
- 2.4 The Council's Constitution makes provision for items to be dealt as a matter of urgency, excluding call-in. Such arrangements have to be agreed by the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman. Again, it is a requirement that these actions are reported annually to full Council.
- 2.5 There have been two occasions this year when it has been necessary to waive the call-in provisions as follows:-
- A Cabinet Member decision relating to the write off of bad debts which needed to be dealt with before the end of the accounting year. (Agreed by the Chairman of the Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee)
  - A Cabinet decision concerning the Council's response to route options for the Oxford/MK/Cambridge Expressway. This was the subject of two seminars for all Members of the Council. The timescale for the submission of a response precluded the usual call-in provisions. (Agreed by the Chairman of the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee).

### **3. Options Considered/Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 None. It is a legislative requirement that any decisions dealt with under the special urgency provisions of the above Regulations are reported annually to Council. The

Constitution requires that urgent items that preclude call-in should also be reported to Council

**4. Resource Implications**

None as such.

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**Background documents:** None