

REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS 2018/19

Councillor A Macpherson

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 2018/2019.

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 requirement that Council be advised annually of the number of cases dealt with under the special urgency provisions. There were two such decisions taken this year. One related to the Capital Programme which needed to be considered in conjunction with the budget setting process for 2019/2020. This was to enable the revenue consequences of capital schemes to be taken into account in determining the revenue budget for the forthcoming financial year. The other related to the disposal of the Scout Hut in Buckingham, where a decision was required urgently to facilitate the sale.
- 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 has been one occasion this year when it was necessary to waive the call-in provisions. This related to the need to meet the deadline set by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a response to the Statutory Instrument to be laid in Parliament regarding the creation of a unitary Council for Bucks.

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.

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Background documents: None