

Urgent Decision Taken on Behalf of Cabinet

Report to the Leader of the County Council

Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Delegation of Executive Functions to officers - COVID-19 Pandemic

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

Proposals for the delegation of executive functions to officers during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Reason for Urgency

This decision is urgent and cannot await the next meeting of Cabinet on 9 April 2020. The reason for this is that, due to the recently declared COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting fast changing local and national situation, robust contingency plans need to be in place to ensure that decisions can be made quickly in response to the developing situation. This decision is therefore being taken on behalf of Cabinet by the Leader of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order C28(1).

Recommendation

The Leader of the County Council is asked to approve that the following decision-making powers are delegated to the Chief Executive, Directors and Heads of Service:

- Powers to take any decision on behalf of the cabinet which can lawfully be delegated to officers, subject to the decision-taker, before taking the decision, having taken appropriate steps to consult the Leader, or, in his absence, the Deputy Leader, or in the absence of both, any members of the cabinet as considered appropriate by the decision taker.
- Such powers to last until 31 August 2020 unless otherwise reviewed.

This decision should be implemented immediately for the purposes of Standing Order C29 as any delay could adversely affect the execution of the county council's responsibilities. The reason for this is to ensure that the county council has robust contingency plans in place as soon as possible in the event that time critical urgent

decisions are needed and the existing arrangements to consult with the Leader / Deputy face to face or via electronic means are not available.

Background and Advice

In order for the council to be able to respond in a timely manner to the rapidly changing challenges posed by the Coronavirus outbreak, it is proposed that a blanket delegation of all Cabinet powers to officers at Head of Service or above is applied.

This is not intended to replace the existing urgent business procedures, and these should be used wherever possible.

Where it becomes necessary for officers to take such a decision, the officer responsibility should ensure that:

1. Wherever possible, the relevant Cabinet member is informed, and their consent obtained
2. The relevant Director or Corporate Management Team member is informed, and the decisions considered by Corporate Management Team where appropriate
3. A full record is kept of the decision on the Modern.gov system, including the reason for the decision, the risks and benefits of the decision, and a record of the consents obtained from Cabinet Members and appropriate more senior officers

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Should the recommendations set out in the report not be approved, there is a risk that essential and necessary decisions to ensure that the execution of the county council's responsibilities are not adversely affected, will be delayed and will impact on vulnerable groups.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

Urgent Decision Taken on behalf of Cabinet: Declarations

Leader of the County Council

Delegation of Executive Functions to officers - COVID-19 Pandemic

Original recommendation, as set out in the report, approved without amendment. Yes/No *

Original recommendation amended and decision as follows: Yes/No *

I have a pecuniary/non-pecuniary interest in this matter. Yes/No *

If an interest is declared please give details below:

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Leader of the County Council

March 2020

Chief Officer

I certify that this is an appropriate and accurate record within the terms of Standing Order C30(2) and (3) of the decision taken by the Cabinet Member.

.....
Democratic and Member Services Manager

March 2020

*Delete as appropriate