



## URGENT DELEGATED DECISION

Date: 20 January 2021

**Request to the Head of Paid Service to exercise delegated authority as per Responsibility of Functions in Part IV, page 28 of the Constitution.**

**“to determine any matter within the referred or delegated powers and duties of a committee / sub committee / board / working which is so urgent that a decision must be made before the next meeting of that committee / sub-committee / board / working group is due to be held.”**

Limits on delegation: -

- Before making a decision using this delegated power, The Head of Paid Service shall consult with and take cognisance of the views of the Chairman (or in his absence the VC) of the relevant Committee / Sub-Committee etc; and
- Any decision taken by the Head of Paid Service under this delegated power shall be reported to Members within five working days of the decision taken.
- During the COVID-19 Pandemic we have also committed to consult with the Leader of the Opposition on such decisions.

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**Usual Decision Maker: -**

This decision would have been taken by Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

This decision needs to be made and implementation commence, before the body is due to meet.

The decision is in response to changing Governance guidance and announcements relating to the increased restrictions in response to the continuing COVID -19 Pandemic, with a further national lockdown currently in place.

Call-in does not apply. .

### **Background**

On 23 April the Head of Paid Service took and urgent delegated decision relating to the Committee Timetable. The original decision can be viewed [here](#).

This decision was further reviewed on 27 July. The decision notice can viewed [here](#).

The decision was again reviewed on 1 October when it was determined:-

- **All Meetings within the timetable for September from 20 October 2020 until 31 January 2020 be held virtually.**
- **The above decision be kept under constant revision and a further decision be taken in mid January regarding the remainder of the Civic Year.**

This decision notice reviews that decision made on 1 October, in light of changing Governance guidance, the re-introduction of a national lockdown until at least 15 February 2021, and with restrictions to some degree expected to be in force for a continued period after that.

### **Reason for Urgency and Rationale for use of urgent Delegated Decision**

In light of the current COVID 19 situation, an urgent decision is required in order to determine what arrangements should be put in place for those meetings within the Committee Timetable for the remainder of the Civic Year.

### **Notes of Consultation Relevant to the Decision**

In light of the renewed national restrictions, all parties were in agreement that a return to physical meetings in the Chamber was not appropriate and given the timescales being spoken of openly amongst Government Officials, a return to the Chamber was highly unlikely before the expiry of the 2020 Regulation permitting virtual meetings.

The regulations were due to expire on 7 May meaning a return to physical meetings would be mandated, in the absence of legislation. The Government had advised there was no option under current legislation to extend the current regulations, and a primary legislation change would be required.

With social distancing arrangements likely to still be in force in May, it was not feasible to hold a full compliment of Members (the Full Council Meetings) within the Chamber. Decisions would also need to be made therefore around the mechanics of these meetings including the Annual Meeting.

### **Decision**

- **All Meetings within the timetable from February 2021 up until 7 May when current regulation expire, be held virtually**
- **A further decision be taken late March in respect of Full Council Meetings / Annual Council, in light of the expiry of current regulation and the impact of any restrictions still in place.**

### **Financial Detail and Implications**

No financial implications arising from this report.



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Ian Knowles  
Head of Paid Service

As Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee I have been fully consulted on this matter



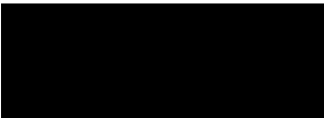
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Cllr A Welburn - Chairman of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

As the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee and Leader I have been fully consulted on this matter



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Cllr O Bierley - Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee and Leader

As the Leader of the Opposition I have been fully consulted on this matter



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Cllr T Young - Leader of the Opposition.

Date all Members were notified of the decision: 22 January 2021