



## DELEGATED DECISION

Date: Tuesday 31 March 2020

Subject: Cancellation of Planning Committee on 1 April 2020

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### Background

The Council's Constitution, paragraph 9, Part IV, page 29 states that the Head of Paid Service can "In the event of extreme inclement weather; or insufficient business to warrant calling a meeting or other unforeseen circumstance including periods of national mourning/national emergencies cancel or postpone a meeting of the Council, a committee, sub-committee....." in consultation with the relevant committee Chairman

### Background

On 18 March a decision was taken, by the Head of Paid Service, under his delegated powers, that in light of the corona outbreak and current Government advice, all Committee meetings (with the exception of Planning Committee) would be cancelled until the end of April.

Since that time, Government Advice has changed considerably with the country effectively in lock down from 23 March.

In light of the new advice, it is not longer considered appropriate or responsible that the Planning Meeting be held on 1 April within the Guildhall.

Regulations permitting virtual meetings during this national emergency have been promised by the Government but have not arrived as yet and therefore it would not currently be legal to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> of April meeting virtually.

With planning decisions it is important that there is the right balance of transparency and governance and therefore using delegated powers to take the decisions scheduled for 1 April is as also considered inappropriate at this time. Therefore the following decision has been made: -

### Decision

In light of the corona outbreak and current Government advice, the Planning Meeting scheduled for 1 April 2020 has being **CANCELLED**.

All items of business scheduled for the 1 April will be transferred to the Planning Committee Meeting currently scheduled for 29 April 2020.

The Planning Committee meeting on 29 April 2020 will be held virtually, in accordance with the new pending regulations.



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Ian Knowles  
Head of Paid Service

I have been fully consulted on this decision



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Councillor Ian Fleetwood  
Chairman of the Planning Committee