



URGENT DELEGATED DECISION

Date: 23 April 2020

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.

Usual Decision Maker: -

This decision would have been taken by the Prosperous Communities Committee / Policy and Resources Committee but all Committee Meetings have been suspended due to the COVID-19 situation.

Call-in does not apply.

Background

The background to this decision is as detailed in the report titled Communities at Risk (Vulnerable Communities) and is published [here](#)

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 approve a new communities at risk policy document and establish a communities at risk fund.

The on-going and developing situation around the Coronavirus pandemic will inevitably have a long term impact on communities. For our vulnerable communities the impacts may be far more prevalent and result in greatly increased inequalities for residents.

At this time we have already seen the impact of increased unemployment, loss of training opportunities and food supply challenges. The Council must be in a position to respond to new challenges faced as a result of the pandemic including unknown outcomes.

New vulnerable communities may emerge following the pandemic. The introduction of the proposed Communities at Risk Policy Document and associated fund will ensure the Council has taken pro-active steps to prepare and respond to people in need

The full rationale for the decision is contained with the report

Notes of Consultation Relevant to the Decision

Could be viewed as urban centric criteria – need to be mindful of rural area needs also.

Concern at earmarking this reserve when full financial impact of COVID-19 still unknown, therefore should the decision be delayed.

Concern acknowledged and other projects had been postponed for that exact same reason. However, the money proposed for earmarking, was already earmarked, albeit for different things (see financial imps), so was not being taken from reserves and did not affect general reserve balances.

The Head of Paid Service indicated he was confident the Council could “afford” to make the decision now.

Furthermore, making the decision now did not mean it could not be reviewed later if needed. COVID-19 would undoubtedly effect communities going forward and it may actually be necessary to increase the fund in the future.

Decision

The Communities at Risk Policy Document is approved

The creation of the Communities at Risk Fund, to be held as an Earmarked Reserve, and replacing the Vulnerable Communities Reserve, is approved

An annual report will be produced on all identified communities at risk to include summary, identified issues, impact assessments, progress reports and details of funding commitments

Financial Detail and Implications - FIN/7/21/SL

Reserves are currently earmarked as follows;

EMR RE89 - Supporting Vulnerable Communities £61,770

CAPITAL - Plus remaining approved capital budget for CCTV expansion £27,265 (slipped from 19/20 to 20/21)


REVENUE - Plus £12,600 underspend in 19/20 for Community Payback scheme to be carried forward into 20/21

CAPITAL - Hemswell Masterplan approved capital budget of £150,000 slipped into 20/21

REVENUE - £61,800 remaining balance of previously approved £100,000 from Investment for Growth reserve (RE83). This was approved for spend within 2 years by CP&R 28.07.16.

TOTAL AVAILABLE BUDGET: £313,435 to be pooled into a Communities at Risk Reserve (to replace to Supporting Vulnerable Communities Reserve).

The Capital schemes above have previously been approved by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee. Any future allocation of spend from remaining balances will require prior approval.



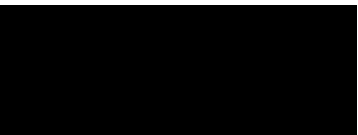
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Ian Knowles
Head of Paid Service

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



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Leader of the Council

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



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Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee

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



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Leader of the Opposition.

Date all Members were notified of the decision 29 April 2020