



URGENT DELEGATED DECISION

Date: 29 May 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.
- During the COVID-19 Pandemic we have also committed to consult with the Leader of the Opposition on such

Usual Decision Maker: -

This decision would have been taken by Prosperous Communities Committee / Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

This decision needs to be made and implementation commence, before these Committees are due to meet

The decision is in response to changing Governance guidance and announcements relating to the easing of lockdown measures and economic recovery phases.

Furthermore previous delegated decisions made in respect of these matters are due to expire.

Call-in does not apply.

Background

The background to this decision is as detailed in previous delegated decision notices, namely: -

To Suspend Car Parking Permit Direct Debits
To Suspend Car Parking Charges in Council Car Parks
Closure of Public Conveniences
Reduced web casting fees at the Crem
Treasury Management Indicators

All these previous decisions can be viewed , under the urgent committee decisions tab [view decision](#)

Reason for Urgency and Rationale for use of urgent Delegated Decision

In light of the current COVID 19 situation, and in response to changing Governance guidance and announcements relating to the easing of lockdown measures and economic recovery phases, markets, non-essential shops and business will begin to re-open from 1st June, throughout June and into July

It is important that the Council is in a position to support the local economy recovery, ensuring facilities are available, whilst recognising the financial impact the COVID 19 Pandemic has had on its own finances.

An urgent decision is therefore required in order to allow for a review of the urgent delegated financial decisions, around fees and charges, which have been taken to date in response to the Pandemic and which are due to expire.

Financial Detail and Implications

Full financial details and implications have previously been contained in the earlier decision notices which be viewed via the links above.

Notes of Consultation Relevant to the Decision

Members present as part of the consultation meeting, had been provided with a slide, setting out the future intention around each of the previous decisions.

This slide is appended.

All present confirmed they supported the proposals in respect of opening Public Conveniences at the earliest opportunity, retaining the reduced web casting fee for cremation services, until such time as unrestricted funerals were permitted, and retaining the flexibility around the Treasury Management Indicator.

The Head of Paid Service confirmed the opening of public conveniences would be the subject of risk assessments, currently underway. Mitigating measures would likely result in increased signage, more frequent cleaning and individuals discipline. Providing an

attendant, whilst it had been investigated, was not financially viable, nor could attendants' welfare needs be met at current locations.

There was less support for the decision to re-introduce car parking charges, with some being of the view that it did not support the ethos and spirit of earlier decisions particularly in respect of suspending market traders fees until April 2021.

It was suggested that parking fees should be suspended until January 1 2021.

The current financial impact of lost income was shared with those present, if parking fees were suspended consideration would also need to be given to extending the suspension of direct debit payments for permits, as customers would not pay for permits if pay by meter charges were suspended.

Prior to approving an extension, the Head of Paid Service and Members would need to be fully aware of the financial implications of such a decision, and did not have that information to make such a decision. It was requested by Members that an options paper be submitted to the pending Corporate Policy Resources on 18 June and no changes, relating to parking, be implemented prior.

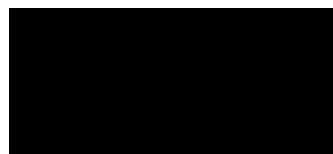
Decision

- 1. Public Conveniences across the District be re-opened at the earliest opportunity, and in-line with Government Guidance on social distancing**
- 2. The reduced webcasting fee of £20 remain in place until such time as unrestricted funerals are permitted**
- 3. the flexibility around the Treasury Management Indicator's detailed in the previous decision notice remain.**
- 4. An Options Paper be submitted to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in respect of the financial implications of further suspending car parking charges and direct debit payments for parking permits.**

Options to be considered:

- * Restarting both charges from 1 July**
- * Suspending both charges for a further 3 months**
- * Suspending both charges until April 2021**

Charges remain suspended until such time.



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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: 5 June 2020