

Meeting: COUNCIL

**Council Agenda
Item:**

16

Date: 7 OCTOBER 2015

URGENT KEY DECISIONS

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To report, on behalf of the Leader, details of all key decisions taken under the provisions of Paragraph 11 (cases of special urgency) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as prescribed by Paragraph 19 of those Regulations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Key Decisions as taken under the above provisions in the period May 2014 to date be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 all Key Decisions, including those to be taken in Part II, must be published on a Forward Plan at least 28 working days in advance of the decision being taking.
- 3.2 Recognising that it is not always possible to give the required notice of a decision the regulations make provision for the 28 day requirement to be waived in certain circumstances, providing that details of such decisions are reported to Council.
- 3.3 This report sets out in summary a record of all such decisions taken since May 2014.

4. SUMMARY OF URGENT KEY DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE MAY 2014

- 4.1 The following decisions have been authorised by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they were not published on the Forward Plan and the required 28 working days given.

4.2 Each Urgent Key Decision has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations and details circulated to all Members at the time the decision was taken.

4.3 Should Members require further information concerning any of the decisions they are requested to contact Constitutional Services.

4.4 External Works Contract Award (Part II Report)

4.4.1 This decision was taken by the Strategic Director (Community) on 3 June 2014 and relates to the award of a contract to install thermal insulation to Council owned properties in the town. The contract was awarded to Wates Construction.

4.4.2 The decision was deemed to be urgent to allow the chosen contractor to start work before the autumn.

4.4.3 The covering report for the decision was Part II by virtue of paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1974 as amended by SI2006 No 88.

4.5 Award of Insurance Contracts for Stevenage Borough Council (Part II Report)

4.5.1 This decision was taken by the Strategic Director (Resources) on 27 June 2014 and relates to the procurement of new insurance contracts for the Council. The contracts were awarded as per the recommendations in the report.

4.5.2 The decision was deemed as urgent to allow the timescales of the contracts to be met.

4.5.3 The covering report for the decision was Part II by virtue of paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1974 as amended by SI2006 No 88.

4.6 Archer Road Additional Refunding Requirement (Part II Report)

4.6.1 This decision was taken at a Special Executive Meeting on 26 August 2014 and relates to the request to provide additional funding for the Archer Road redevelopment project. The additional funding was approved as requested.

4.6.2 The decision was deemed as urgent to enable contracts to be signed and the project delivered to timescale.

4.6.3 The covering report for the decision was Part II by virtue of paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1974 as amended by SI2006 No 88.

4.7 Town Centre Regeneration (Part II Report)

- 4.7.1 This decision was taken at a Special Executive Meeting on 26 August 2014 and related to the acquisition of commercial assets located within Stevenage town centre. The acquisition of commercial assets in the town centre was approved.
- 4.7.2 This decision was deemed as urgent to enable to Council to be successful in acquiring the asset within a four week timescale.
- 4.7.3 The covering report for the decision was Part II by virtue of paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1974 as amended by SI2006 No 88.

4.8 Refurbishment and Upgrading of the Car Park Installation in the Town Centre (Part II Report)

- 4.8.1 This decision was taken at a Special Executive Meeting on 26 August 2014 and related to the refurbishment and provision of an upgraded solution to improve the condition and resilience of the Town Centre car park equipment and network. The refurbishment and provision of an upgraded solution for the Town Centre car park equipment was approved.
- 4.8.2 This decision was deemed as urgent to allow for the proposal to be implemented without delay in order to mitigate the number of customer complaints about the system.
- 4.8.3 The covering report for the decision was Part II by virtue of paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1974 as amended by SI2006 No 88.

4.9 Shared Anti-Fraud Service Partnership (Part I Report)

- 4.9.1 This decision was taken by the Strategic Director (Resources) on 5 January 2015 and related to the establishment of a Shared Anti-Fraud Partnership for non-benefit and corporate fraud with five other Hertfordshire authorities. The decision was made for the Council to go into partnership with the other five Hertfordshire authorities.
- 4.9.2 This decision was deemed as urgent to allow for recruitment to progress in time for the new post holders to be in place for the commencement of the new financial year.

4.10 Stevenage Leisure Limited – Fitness Facility Redevelopment (Part II Report)

- 4.10.1 This decision was taken by the Strategic Director (Community) on 31 March 2015 and related to the redevelopment of the Fitness Facility at the Leisure Centre. The Decision was made to award a grant to enable the redevelopment to proceed.

4.10.2 This decision was deemed as urgent to enable the building redevelopment and equipment upgrade to take place in parallel to minimise disruption to service users.

4.10.3 The covering report for the decision was Part II by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part II of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1974 as amended by SI2006 No 88.

4.11 Fuel Procurement (Part I Report)

4.11.1 This decision was taken by the Strategic Director (Environment) on 27 April 2015 and related to the procurement of fuel through an E-Auction Scheme administered by central government. The decision was made to allow the Council to benefit from the E-Auction scheme.

4.11.2 This decision was deemed as urgent to allow for the Council to meet the procurement deadline and take advantage of the Government's E-Auction procurement scheme.

4.12 Domestic Gas Servicing and Maintenance Contract (Part II Report)

4.12.1 This decision was taken by the Strategic Director (Community) on 22 June 2015 and related to the awarding of the Domestic Gas Servicing and Maintenance Contract for Council owned properties in the town. The decision was made to award the contract as per the recommendations in the report.

4.12.2 This decision was deemed as urgent to give sufficient time to mobilise the contract and ensure that IT links were operational prior to the contract commencing.

4.12.3 The covering report for the decision was Part II by virtue of paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part II of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1974 as amended by SI2006 No 88.

5. Implications

5.1 The implications for the above were dealt with in the covering report for each decision.

Background Documents

- BD1 - Report - Shared Anti-Fraud Service Partnership – <http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/content/committees/130059>
- BD2 – Report – Fuel Procurement - <http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/content/committees/139162>
- BD3 - The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2089/regulation/10/made>