

Meeting Council

Portfolio Area

Date 17 December 2025



DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE UNDER THE SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012

Author Victoria Wilders Monitoring Officer
Lisa Jerome Senior Democratic Services Officer

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of decision(s) taken by the Cabinet in accordance with the Special Urgency provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. Council is recommended to note the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Council's Standing Order 43.1 require me, as Executive Leader, to submit an annual report to the Council on decisions taken by the Executive in pursuance of the Special Urgency provisions set out in Regulation 19 of the Regulations and in the Council's Standing Order 37.
- 3.2. Set out below are details of the Cabinet's decision taken since October 2025 in pursuance of the Special Urgency provisions referred to above:

Date of Meetings	Subject	Decision(s)
18 November 2025	Reorganisation in Hertfordshire – Submission of Final Proposal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The indicative resolution of Full Council be noted. 2. That the preferred Option C be approved to submit the proposal and identify the modified four unitary option (4UA modified) as preferred and request that the SoS formally modify the proposal by boundary changes as set out in the proposal. 3. That the report be endorsed and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, having consulted with the Leader of the Council, to work with Hertfordshire County Council and District and Borough Councils to finalise and submit Hertfordshire's proposals for Local Government Reorganisation to Government by 28 November 2025.
	Town Centre Development Finance	That the recommendations set out in the Part II report be approved

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

- 4.1 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (the Rules) under the Constitution, the call-in procedure did not apply where the decision being taken by Cabinet is urgent (as was proposed in this case). On the 11 November, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to disapply the call in procedure in respect of the Local Government Reorganisation in Hertfordshire – Submission of Final Proposal report on the basis that the decision proposed was reasonable and proportionate in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.
- 4.2 Under the Rules, the decision to disapply must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council together with the reasons for the urgency. The reason for the urgency was that if the decision were to be subject to call-in this might have impacted on the Council being able to submit its preferred unitary option and put its name to the final joint submission to Government by the deadline of 28th November 2025. If the Council was unable to submit its response on time due to any delay caused because of the call-in process, this would have been both prejudicial to the Council and the public.

- 4.3 In relation to the Town Centre Development Finance, the funding facility from Barclays to carry on construction on Claxton House needs to be in place in December to avoid expensive delays, as the site would have to be as construction at the site would have to be stopped and put on hold until funding is made available, then reactivated to resume works.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 5.1. None

Legal Implications

- 5.2 The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.