

**Meeting** Council  
**Portfolio Area**  
**Date** 25 February 2026



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

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**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 a report to the Council on decisions taken by the Cabinet 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 December 2025 in pursuance of the Special Urgency provisions referred to above:

| <b>Date of Meetings</b> | <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Decision(s)</b>  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 14 January 2026         | Local Government Reorganisation in Hertfordshire and Local Elections 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the letter from the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness on 18 December 2025, inviting councils in reorganisation areas where elections are planned for 2026 to give their views on potential postponement of local elections in their areas be noted.</li> <li>2. That a response be submitted with comments on the capacity to manage the transition to new unitary authorities by April 2028 and a request that the local elections scheduled for May 2026 be postponed by one year.</li> <li>3. That authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council to submit a response to the Minister's invitation by 15 January 2026.</li> </ol> |

#### **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 14 January 2026, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to disapply the call in procedure in respect of the Local Government Reorganisation and Local Elections 2026 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 as the letter received from the Government had a response deadline of 15 January and this was the first opportunity for Cabinet to consider the matter. Further advice and FAQ's had also been published on 6 January to inform preparation of this report, along with legal advice on the decision making process.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

5.1. None

### **Legal Implications**

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