

COUNCIL – 18TH JANUARY 2021

Report of the Chief Executive

ITEM 12 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPTED FROM CALL-IN

Purpose of Report

To note decisions which were exempted from call-in in accordance with Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.9.

Action Requested

In accordance with Full Council Procedure 9.11(d) questions may be asked of the Leader in relation to the urgent decisions that were taken. The Leader may ask the relevant Lead Member to respond.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The call-in procedure provides for a period of five clear working days during which councillors can ask for decisions taken by the Cabinet and individual Cabinet members, and key decisions taken by officers to be reviewed. With the agreement of the Chair of the Scrutiny Commission or in his/her absence the Mayor or Deputy Mayor) a decision can be exempted from call-in if the decision to be taken is both urgent and reasonable and the delay caused by the call-in process would not be in the interests of the Council or the public. Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.9 requires that decisions that are exempted from call-in are reported to Council.

(i) *Acquisition of Commercial Properties*

On 8th September 2020, Councillor Morgan, as Leader of the Council, took a decision to allocate Executive functions relating to the purchase and sale of commercial properties. Item 12 on this agenda sets out the detail of the decision taken.

In exercising that Executive function, the Leader took decisions to purchase the following commercial properties:

- Banbury (3 storey office building)
- Aberdeen (warehouse facility with 2 storey offices)
- Scunthorpe (Warehouse/Distribution facility)

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission was consulted on each transaction and agreed that the decisions be exempted from call-in, as any potential delay arising from a call-in would put the purchase of the properties at risk by delaying the potential completion dates.

The decision records and reports considered can be found in the Annex to this report. At the time of the transactions the reports were classified as exempt as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The passage of time now means that the reports can be made publicly available.

(ii) Electric Vehicle Charging Point - Funding

The Head of Planning and Regeneration made a decision on 6th November to enter into a lease, and other legal agreements as may be necessary, with a supplier of Electric Vehicle Charging points pursuant to the Government's On Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme; and delegated authority was also given to enter into a procurement exercise using a framework agreement to select a supplier to deliver an On Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission was consulted and agreed that the decision be exempted from call-in, as any delay would mean that the expressions of interest deadline would not be met.

The report considered can be found in the Annex to this report.

(iii) Charnwood Business Grant Funds Policy

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services made a decision on 18th November 2020 to approve the policy for the operation of the Business Grant Funds, created to support businesses during the November to December 2020 national lockdown and periods of local restrictions.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission was consulted and agreed that the decision be exempted from call-in, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic national lockdown and to enable payments to be made to the businesses affected by the Pandemic as soon as possible and meet Government expectations in respect of the payments timetable

The report considered can be found in the Annex to this report.

(iv) Homes England Funding

The Chief Executive made a decision on 21st December 2020, to enter into a Next Steps Accommodation Funding Agreement with Homes England to enable the Council to receive a grant award of £586,487. The grant will be used to provide accommodation and support for those who are homeless, at imminent risk of homelessness and rough sleeping.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission was consulted and agreed that the decision be exempted from call-in, as to achieve the required timescales, the Funding Agreement must be signed and sealed by the Council so the accommodation and support provision can be acquired and be in place and opened by the 31st March 2021.

The report considered can be found in the Annex to this report.

(v) Bedford Square Gateway Project

The Cabinet at its meeting on 10th December 2020 considered, an exempt report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration in respect of the Bedford Square Gateway Project to consider approval of the final scheme design and proceed to the appointment of contractors to deliver the street works

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission was consulted and agreed that the decision be exempted from call-in in order that the contractor be appointed soon after Cabinet decision if the works are to be completed before the annual fair in November 2021.

The report considered contains exempt information, and as such that information is included in an exempt appendix.

vi) Licence to the NHS

The Strategic Director, Commercial Development, Assets and Leisure, made a decision on 17th December 2020 in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive, that the Council grant a license to occupy a portion of the Council Offices at Southfields Road, Loughborough to LLR PCL to deliver a Vaccination Centre on behalf of the National Health Service England in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission was consulted and agreed that the decision be exempted from call-in in order to achieve the required timescales to open the vaccination centre in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report considered contains exempt information, and as such that information is included in an exempt appendix.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions

As detailed within the Annex to this report.

Report Implications

As detailed within the Annex to this report.

Background Papers: None

Officer to Contact: Karen Widdowson
Democratic Services Manager
(01509) 634785

karen.widdowson@charnwood.gov.uk

Annex

Reports considered by the Cabinet Lead Member and relevant officers.