
**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Council – 16 March 2016

Subject: Urgent Key Decisions

Report of: The City Solicitor

Purpose of report

To report those key decisions that have been taken in accordance with the urgency provisions in the Council's Constitution.

Recommendation

To note the report.

Wards affected: All

Financial consequences for Revenue and Capital Budgets

None

Implications for:

Antipoverty
No

Equal Opportunities
No

Environment
No

Employment
No

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Background documents:

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

File of key decisions held in Room 405, Town Hall.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules) establishes a procedure for dealing with key decisions where action needs to be taken immediately for reasons of urgency, and is therefore not subject to the normal call in arrangements.
- 1.2 The procedures states that the chair of the appropriate scrutiny committee must agree that both the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances, and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.
- 1.3 Such decisions are to be reported to the Council.

2. Urgent Key Decisions taken since the last meeting of Council

| Date | Subject | Reason for urgency | Decision Taken by | Approved by |
|-----------------|--|---|---|--|
| 14 January 2016 | Setting the Council Tax Base | The calculation used information to November and was finalised during December 2015 to support the key decision required. Due to the requirement to notify Precepting Authorities by 15 January it was requested the decision was exempted from call in | City Treasurer | Councillor Ollerhead – Chair of Finance Scrutiny Committee |
| 14 January 2016 | Determining the Council Tax Element of the Collection Fund | The calculation used information to November 2015 and was finalised during December 2015 to support the key decision required. Due to the requirement to notify Precepting Authorities by 15 January it was requested that the decision was exempted from call in. | City Treasurer | Councillor Ollerhead – Chair of Finance Scrutiny Committee |
| 25 January 2016 | LAC/Complex Dependency | A recent announcement from the Prime Minister indicated potentially significant financial implications for Local Authorities that fail their Ofsted inspection multiple times. Manchester is due for re-inspection between June – September 2016. The single most influential factor that will determine our success in the re-inspection is the quality of frontline social work and early help practice, along with evidence of good leadership and governance. Success in this is dependent on securing the right capacity and momentum, in the crucial months ahead of Ofsted's | Chief Executive in consultation with the City Treasurer | Councillor Ollerhead – Chair of Finance Scrutiny Committee |

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| | | <p>return, to fully prepare for the re-inspection. The additional capacity requested would therefore support the Service, currently judged to be inadequate, to be fully prepared for the re-inspection.</p> <p>Further information about the proposal can be found within the accompanying report (<i>Proposal to use LAC/ Complex Dependency Investment Fund for Additional Capacity to support preparation for Ofsted Re-inspection</i> - Tuesday 12th January 2016). Decision was made to ensure continuity of services put in place in response to Ofsted Improvement Plan in 2014 and respond to immediate pressures in the Children's safeguarding service.</p> | | |
| 27 January 2016 | Working Well Expansion | Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council needed to sign the contract with the preferred Working Well provider by 28 Jan 2016 to enable contract delivery to start from Feb | City Treasurer | Councillor Ollerhead – Chair of Finance Scrutiny Committee |
| 28 January 2016 | Business Rates Calculation (GMFRA) | Because the calculation used information to December the calculation was finalised during January 2016 to support the key decision required. Due to the requirement to notify Central Government and the Fire and Rescue Authority by 31 January it was requested that the decision was exempted from call in | City Treasurer | Councillor Ollerhead – Chair of Finance Scrutiny Committee |

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| 28 January 2016 | Determining the Business Rates Element | Because the calculation used information to December the calculation was finalised during January 2016 to support the key decision required. Due to the requirement to notify Central Government and the Fire and Rescue Authority by 31 January it was requested the decision is exempt from call in. | City Treasurer | Councillor Ollerhead – Chair of Finance Scrutiny Committee |
| 15 February 2016 | Microsoft Licenses | Any delay in awarding the contract to the successful supplier would have had a consequential knock-on effect of placing the required order with Microsoft for the renewal of the licence estate. Deadlines for placing these orders were fixed in order to obtain Public Sector discounts and the failure to achieve these deadlines would impact the overall cost to the Council to the region of £4 million. | Chief Executive in consultation with the City Treasurer | Councillor Ollerhead – Chair of Finance Scrutiny Committee |
| 2 March 2016 | Appoint a company for Insurance Services | If the decision were to be delayed beyond 20 March 2016, there would be a break in the continuity of insurance coverage with effect from 1 April 2016, with potential financial consequences. (The European Procurement regulations require a period of ten days to enable unsuccessful service providers to challenge the Councils' award decision. | City Treasurer | Councillor Ollerhead – Chair of Finance Scrutiny Committee |