

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Council – 14 July 2021

**Subject:** Urgent Key Decisions

**Report of:** City Solicitor

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**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.

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**Wards affected:** All

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**Financial consequences for the Revenue budget**

None

**Financial consequences for the Capital Budget**

None

**Implications for:**

**Antipoverty**  
No

**Equal Opportunities**  
No

**Environment**  
No

**Employment**  
No

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**Background documents:**

None.

## **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.
- 2.** Such decisions are to be reported to the Council.

### 3. Urgent Key Decisions taken since the last meeting of Council

3.1 A list of key decisions requiring exemption from the call in procedure that have been taken since the last meeting of Council is listed below.

Date	Subject	Reason for urgency	Decision Taken by	Approved by
31 March 2021	Award of a contract for Mobile Voice and Data Services (mobile telephones and sim cards for tablets and laptops)	Due to an oversight, the key decision was not placed on the forward plan. Any delay to entering into the new contact would mean remaining on the disadvantageous data charging arrangements included in the old contract. The previous contract expired in September 2020 and was based on predominately office based working across the authority. As working practices have changed due to CV-19, complex modelling of scenarios and negotiations with the supplier have been necessary with the provider to agree contractual terms that reflect the current and anticipated future flexible working model. It has also been necessary to use a different procurement framework for the new contract. The pricing model for the new contact involves a shared data pool across all devices whereas the previous model was a specific data allowance per sim card – much of which could go unused or incur higher charges if the allowance was exceeded. The new model therefore significantly reduces costs because we will no longer be charged for unused data and will avoid punitive charges when users occasionally exceed their data allowance.	Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer	Councillor Russell (Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee)
29 April 2021	Appointment of a contractor due to Road collapse	The decision was to appoint Bethells to investigate four road collapses across the City and deliver remedial works to make the sites safe and reinstate the highway	Director of Highways	Councillor Russell (Chair of Resources and

		<p>where the Council has a liability. The contractor had been working with United Utilities at all locations so has already established a site and had working knowledge of the issues. This decision would appoint United Utilities contractors who have been investigating issues across the sites to undertake further assessments and remedial works to prevent damage to residents' homes and further damage to the highway. As they are already onsite, there is a continuity benefit to engaging the contractor including expertise and understanding of the issues across all sites. Once the reason for the collapses are identified substantial repairs will be required to make the sites safe and enable the reinstatement of the highway. Where liability can be established with United Utilities, this will be recovered.</p> <p>Following the key decision process could have delayed repairs to collapses or have prevented repairs from progressing and presented a health and safety risk while creating potential damage or further damage to homes and the highway.</p>		Governance Scrutiny Committee)
29 April 2021	To establish a capital budget of £1m to investigate four road collapses across the City and deliver remedial works to make the sites safe and reinstate	<p>Liability had been passed to the Council for two of the sites. The request for urgency across all sites is to create a funding mechanism should liability fall to the Council due to the urgent nature of these works.</p> <p>All four road collapse sites have caused damage to the highway and nearby properties. The budget requested will enable investigatory and remedial works at all road collapses where liability is identified as with MCC. Where liability can be established with United Utilities,</p>	Director of Highways	Councillor Russell (Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee)

	<p>the highway where the Council has a liability</p>	<p>this will be recovered.</p> <p>Following the key decision process may delay repairs to collapses or prevent repairs from progressing which presents a health and safety risk while creating potential damage or further damage to homes and the highway.</p>		
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