

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Council – 6 October 2021

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 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
16 July 2021	Allocation of the Summer Food Support grant and COMF funding to support schools to provide supermarket vouchers to be distributed through schools for children and young people eligible for benefit related free school meals and to Early Years/Early Help service to support children and families experiencing poverty.	<p>Manchester has been allocated £2.4m as an extension of the COVID grant. A minimum of 80% of this grant must be spent on families with children. The grant needs to be spent by 30th September 2021.</p> <p>The proposal is for this grant funding to be used to support food provision for children and young people who access benefit related free school meals over the summer school holiday period.</p> <p>As the provision of the full scheme in line with that previously provided over the Christmas, Easter and Half Term holidays which was £15 per child per week and included children in the early years will cost £3.4m the Council will use £1.1m of Covid Outbreak Management Funding.</p> <p>The Council were only formally notified of the grant allocation on 22 June 2021. An urgent decision is required due to the tight timescales to meet the ambition of providing support over summer break which commences in 3 weeks time for c42,000 children and young people who would normally access food at school/setting or college during term time.</p>	Executive Leader	Councillor Reid (Chair of Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee)

		A delay will compromise the Council's legal position by not meeting the expectations in the grant conditions and not support vulnerable families. This may lead to a surplus which would be returned to central government		
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