

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Council – 29 March 2023

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

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the decisions proposed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

N/A

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	N/A
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	N/A
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	N/A

A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	N/A
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	N/A

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial consequences for the Revenue budget:

None

Financial consequences for the Capital Budget:

None

Contact officers:

Name: Fiona Ledden
Position: City Solicitor
Telephone: 0161 234 3087
Email: fiona.ledden@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Donna Barnes
Position: Governance and Scrutiny Support Officer
Telephone: 0161 234 3037
Email: d.barnes@manchester.gov.uk

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.

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
15 February 2023	To approve the calculation of the Council's Council Tax income for 2023/24	The calculation of the estimated Council Tax Base is finalised during January to support the key decision required. Due to the requirement to notify precepting authorities by 31 January 2023 it is requested that the decision is exempt from Call In. Following a report to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 6 December 2022 the Chair of the Committee has agreed to exempt this decision from Call In	Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer	Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee
28 February 2023	Approval of delivery of Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding programme, spending an initial allocation of up to £2.3m government fund to support Manchester households who do not directly contract with a domestic electricity supplier and so have not received previous support for their Energy Costs; and to increase the revenue budget by that	EBSSAF is planned to allow applications from 27 February 2023 to 31 May 2023 with final payments made by 30 June 2023. Government confirmation of funding was received on 7 February 2023. Final guidance is not yet available. The anticipated timing of final government confirmation of the scheme means that if the scheme were to progress through the standard Key Decision process there may be a delay in the provision of critical support to Manchester residents.	Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer	Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

	<p>amount for the grant received.</p> <p>Funding was confirmed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 7 February 2023.</p>			
22 February 2023	<p>Determine the Council Tax element of the estimated Collection Fund 2022/23 year-end surplus or deficit.</p>	<p>The calculation of the estimated Council Tax Base is finalised during January to support the key decision required. Due to the requirement to notify precepting authorities by 31 January 2023 it is requested that the decision is exempt from Call In. Following a report to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 6 December 2022 the Chair of the Committee has agreed to exempt this decision from Call In.</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer</p>	<p>Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee</p>
10 March 2023	<p>Approval of delivery of Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Funding programme, spending an initial allocation of up to £117k government fund to support Manchester households use alternative fuels – such as heating oil, biomass and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) – as the main source of heating; and have not received the AFP automatically through their electricity supplier.</p>	<p>AFPAF is planned to allow applications from 6 March 2023 to 31 May 2023 with final payments made by 30 June 2023. Government confirmation of funding was received on 24 February 2023. The timescales applying to delivery of the scheme mean that if the scheme were to progress through the standard Key Decision process there may be a delay in the provision of critical support to Manchester residents.</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer</p>	<p>Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee</p>

	<p>Also, to increase the revenue budget by that amount for the grant received.</p> <p>Funding was confirmed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 24 February 2023.</p>			
16 March 2023	<p>Approval to provide support to families with children who are eligible for Free School Meals during the Easter Half Term Holidays at a cost of up to £1.1m. This will be funded from the £12.9m government fund allocated to Manchester under Household Support Fund 4 which will provide support to households across Manchester impacted by the energy and cost of living crisis.</p>	<p>HSF4 runs from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Government confirmation of funding and of the scheme requirements were received on 21 February 2023. The timing of final government confirmation of the scheme means that if the scheme were to progress through the standard Key Decision process there would be a delay in the provision of critical support to Manchester residents. The first element of which will be support to families with children who are eligible for Free School Meals during the Easter Half Term Holidays at a cost of up to £1.1m.</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer</p>	<p>Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee</p>