

To: Council
Date: 5 October 2020
Report of: Chief Executive
Title of Report: Decisions taken under Part 9.3 of the Constitution

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	Council is asked to note the decision taken by the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) using the urgency powers delegated in Parts 9.3(b) of the Constitution.
Recommendation(s): Council is recommended to:	
1. Note the decision taken as set out in the report.	

Appendices
None

Introduction and background

1. This report updates Council on decisions taken by the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) using the urgency powers delegated in the Council's Constitution.
2. Where urgency powers are used the Constitution requires the Head of Paid Service to report, in writing, as soon as practicable to the body which would otherwise have been required to give the necessary authority to act.

9.3 Role of Head of Paid Service

...

(b) The Head of Paid Service is authorised to take any urgent action necessary to protect the Council's interests and assets where time is of the essence and it is impracticable to secure authority to act where such authority would otherwise be required.

The Head of Paid Service, in so acting, will be guided by budget and the policy framework, will consult the other Statutory Officers before acting and will report, in writing, as soon as practicable to the body which would otherwise have been required to give the necessary authority to act.

Decisions taken using urgency powers

3. The following decision has been taken using urgency powers for which Council would otherwise have been required to give the necessary authority to act, in this case by allocating a budget. Council is asked to note this decision.
4. This report does not list all decisions taken by officers in response to the Covid-19 outbreak only those taken by the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) using his urgency powers under the provisions of Part 9.3(b) of the Constitution where Council would otherwise have been required to give the necessary authority to act. This report does not include the urgent and emergency decisions reported to the Annual Council Meeting on 20 May 2020 or the Council meeting on 20 July 2020.

ITEM 1	ACCOMMODATION OF ROUGH SLEEPERS AT CANTERBURY HOUSE
<p>Decision: The decision was taken to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve that a letter of intent be sent to A2Dominion for the use of Canterbury House for 50 weeks from 3 August 2020 by way of a management agreement between St Mungo's and A2D, with the Council undertaking to enter into an agreement with St Mungo's for this work and complete a full agreement by 17 July 2020. 2. Approve the allocation of a budget £660,486 for this use to be funded from housing benefit income, government grant (if approved) with the remainder from reserves if necessary. 	
<p>Date decision made:</p>	<p>10 July 2020</p>
<p>Decision taker</p>	<p>Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) Decision taken in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing.</p>
<p>Was the decision taken under emergency or urgency rules?</p>	<p>Urgency – Constitution Part 9.3(b)</p>
<p>Is this a Key Decision?</p>	<p>Key (expenditure of >£500k) The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee agreed to the taking of an urgent key decision that had not been notified on the Forward Plan.</p>
<p>Reasons for decision</p>	<p>The Council had been seeking interim accommodation for homeless people who had been housed as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous arrangements were short term at significant nightly cost. Student accommodation had been identified which could be made available, but an urgent decision was required to secure its use.</p>
<p>Alternative options considered:</p>	<p>An extensive search for properties to accommodate rough sleepers was undertaken in the city to secure up to 120 rooms. Ideally it would have been on no more than two sites to allow for effective management. The YHA Oxford was available for 9 months up to the end of March providing 41 rooms.</p>

	Two individual houses were offered by Colleges and some rooms in Commonwealth House were tentatively offered, but the accommodation did not have ensuite facilities, did not offer enough rooms to avoid the use of hotels, and would have been difficult to manage with staff having to work between a number of small sites.
Wards significantly affected	Cowley Marsh
Declared conflict of interest:	None

Financial issues

- There are no financial issues arising beyond those set out in the documents attached to the published decision notice.

Legal issues

- The urgency powers of the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) are set out in the Constitution.

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Background Papers: None

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