

Law & Governance

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Central Number: 01865 249811

Date: 19 April 2021

Dear Councillor Gant, Chair of Scrutiny Committee,

I am writing to seek your agreement that the deferral of an urgent key decision which has not been notified on the Council's Forward Plan would not be reasonable.

You may be aware that the Council was awarded c. £4.403m from the Government's Coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme. There is already a decision in place authorising the spending of up to £2.8 million of that funding. The Council now has an opportunity to receive an additional almost £1m of ARG funding subject to the existing £4.3m being spent by the end of June 2021.

To achieve the additional award, the spending needs to proceed at pace and the authorisation to spend the remainder of the original grant award cannot wait for the June Cabinet meeting. It is proposed that a decision is taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the other statutory officers and relevant executive members, to authorise the spending of the remainder of the original award plus the additional award (if successful). The decision would be taken using the urgency powers delegated to the Chief Executive in Part 9.3(b) of the Constitution.

This will be a key decision due to the value being over £500k but there is insufficient time to notify the decision on the Forward Plan for 28 days. I am therefore seeking your permission to waive this requirement under Part 15.17 of the Constitution.

I am of the view that the Council should aim to allow the usual 2 day time period for call in to support transparency so I am not seeking your permission to waive members' rights to call in the decision under Part 17.9 of the Constitution.

I would be grateful if you could respond by return to confirm whether you agree to the taking of an urgent decision. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this matter.

Please note that if the urgent decision is agreed a copy of this letter will be attached to the public decision notice and the urgent decision will be reported to meetings of Cabinet and Council in the coming weeks.

With best wishes,

Susan Sale
Head of Law and Governance

