

Law & Governance

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Dear Councillor Wade, Chair of Scrutiny Committee,

I am writing to notify you of the proposed taking of two key decisions which will not have been notified on the Council's Forward Plan for 28 days. Both decisions were added to the Forward Plan today.

The first key decision concerns the procurement of a support service for the Housing First programme. Cabinet granted project approval on 16 June 2021 with the aim of supporting the Council's objective to end rough sleeping. All of the funding for the Housing First support service has been successfully bid for from government. This contract award is a key decision because the value is over £500k. Officers have delegated authority under the Council's Constitution to award a contract up to the value of £1m but due to an oversight this was not included on the Forward Plan sooner.

The second decision which is also expected to be a key decision is an update to the decarbonisation programme. Cabinet on 15 September 2021 will receive a progress report on the decarbonisation programme. Cabinet will be recommended to agree changes to the scope of the schemes in view of the final costings, within the already approved funding envelope, or to go ahead with the existing programme and recommend that Council increases the budget. Due to the time constraints the Council is working to in delivering the decarbonisation programme this report is being prepared outside of the normal clearance process for Cabinet reports.

In both cases, the intention is to use the "general exemption" rule whereby a key decision can be taken without being notified on the Forward Plan for 28 days if 5 clear days' notice is provided to the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee. Both decisions will be subject to call in to provide the maximum transparency and member oversight commensurate with timeframe for delivery.

If you would like further details about the circumstances of either decision please let me know and I will arrange for the relevant officer to make contact with you to provide a briefing.

Please note that a copy of this letter will be attached to the public decision notices.

With best wishes,

Susan Sale
Head of Law and Governance

