

# Re: Consent to Publish Urgent Key Decision

On Tue, 2 Jun  
2020 at 11:51

**Cllr-Robert Bayford**

Hi Chris

I am happy to give my consent to publish the Individual Cabinet Member Decision in respect of the Discretionary Grant Scheme as outlined in the Cabinet Report.

Regards

Bob

On Tue, 2 Jun 2020 at 11:23, Chris Blundell <[chris.blundell@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:chris.blundell@thanet.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear Cllr Bayford

I am writing to you to seek your consent as Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Panel to Publish the Individual Cabinet Member Decision made by the Leader of Council regarding the "Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund."

This is an urgent key decision which Councillor Savage has agreed is exempt from call-in procedures as provided for in the TDC Constitution Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules 15.0 (p) and (q) which is detailed as shown below:

## **Call-in and urgency**

*(p) The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where the decision being taken by the Cabinet is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The record of the decision, and notice by which it is made public, shall state whether, in the opinion of the decision making person or body, the decision is an urgent one, and therefore not subject to call-in.*

*(q) The Chairman of the Council must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman's consent shall be required. In the absence of both, the Head of Paid Service or his/her nominee's consent shall be required. Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.*

I am requesting your consent as Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel under Part 4 of the TDC Constitution (Rules of Procedure), particularly under the Access to Information Procedure Rule 19.0 (19.1 (a) (Special Urgency); for the Leader of Council to make this key decision which is not the Forward Plan. The provision under this Rule states that:

*a) Where the date by which a key decision must be made makes compliance with Rule 18 impracticable, the decision may only be made where the decision maker has obtained agreement from (a) the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel.*

Rule 18 (General Exception) would require that officers publish a statutory notice for 5 days before the decision can be implemented. However this is impractical because the decision is urgent because it is vitally important that we are able to go-live with this scheme without delay, in order to get financial support to local eligible businesses in a prompt manner.

It is a key decision because the Council will be spending £1.66m (in excess of the £500,000 key decision threshold) and this amount was not previously included in the approved budget. Unfortunately, we were not able to include it in the forward plan because of the timeframes that we have been working to. The scheme was announced by the government at the beginning of May, but guidance and clarification on scheme design and delivery requirements were only received in late May, with the scheme being approved by the leader on 29th May for a 1st June go-live.

Your consent letter (email) will be added to the documents to be published with the decision, which then enables officers to implement the decision immediately, after publication of this urgent executive decision.

Many thanks

Chris

Chris Blundell

Head of Financial & Procurement Services and Deputy S151 Officer

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