

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 23 JULY 2020

ACCESS TO INFORMATION RULES - SPECIAL URGENCY NOTICES

Report of the Leader of the Council

1. Background

1.1 In accordance with the Access to Information Rules contained within the County Council's Constitution, the Leader of the Council is required to submit quarterly reports to the Council detailing those key decisions taken by the Cabinet where it had not been possible to give the requisite 28 days public notice of the intention to take such a decision. The quarterly report should include the number of decisions so taken and a summary of the matters in respect of which those decisions were taken.

1.2 Similarly, where a decision being taken by or on behalf of the Cabinet or the Property Sub-Committee is urgent and any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests or the interests of any person(s) to whom the decision relates, then the Leader of the Council may seek the approval of the Chairman of the Corporate Review Committee to that decision being exempt from call-in. A report on the use of this procedure must be submitted to Council on a quarterly basis.

1.3 Below is a schedule detailing the use of the above powers since the last meeting of the Council.

The Cabinet, at their meeting on 15 April 2020, took a key decision relating to the provision of a fee uplift and financial stability measures for Care Providers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Cabinet, at their meeting on 20 May 2020, also took a key decision on further extra funding of £4.3m from the additional grant to support care providers.

1.4 As it had not been possible to give the requisite 28 days public notice of the intention to take the above-mentioned decisions, the provisions referred to in paragraph 1.1 above were utilised. In addition, as there was considerable concern nationally about the risk of care providers failing, which would have a catastrophic impact on people and the NHS, the approval of the Chairman of the Corporate Review Committee was sought to the decisions being exempt from call-in in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 1.2 above.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the use of the special urgency and exemption from call-in provisions contained in the Council's Constitution in respect of the Cabinet's decisions on 15 April 2020 (on the provision of a fee uplift and financial stability measures for Care

Providers during the Covid-19 pandemic) and 20 May 2020 (on further extra funding of £4.3m to support care providers), be noted.