

## COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 DECEMBER 2019

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### 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 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 The Cabinet, at their meeting on 4 December 2019, took a key decision relating to the sale of the former Meadows School site in Biddulph. As it had not been possible to give the requisite 28 days public notice of the intention to take the decision, the Special Urgency powers referred to in paragraph 1.1 above were utilised. In addition, in order to achieve the completion of the sale prior to the calendar year end, the approval of the Chairman of the Corporate Review Committee was sought to the decision 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 decision on 4 December 2019 on the sale of the former Meadows School site in Biddulph, be noted.