

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 MAY 2022

ACCESS TO INFORMATION RULES – GENERAL EXCEPTION AND 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 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 and that, accordingly, a "General Exception" Notice had been published. The 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; (this is referred to in the Access to Information Rules as Special Urgency provisions). A report on the use of this procedure must also be submitted to Council.

1.3 Details of the use of the "General Exception" and "Special Urgency" provisions is detailed in the following paragraphs

1.4 The Cabinet, at their meeting on 20 October 2021 took a key decision relating to the Government's Household Support Fund Grant which was made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need over the Winter period. (General Exception).

1.5 The Cabinet, at their meeting on 20 October 2021 took a key decision relating to the award of a Highways Construction Contract associated with the Pets at Home development at Redhill, Stafford. (General Exception).

1.6 The Cabinet, at their meeting on 17 November 2021 took a key decision relating to winter funding for home care. (General Exception).

1.7. The Cabinet, at their meeting on 16 March 2022 took a key decision relating to proposals to continue concessionary travel reimbursement to local bus operators in Staffordshire beyond March 2022 for a period of 6

months, in line with the extension of government funding. The approval of the Chairman of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee was also sought to the decision being exempt from call-in in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 1.2 above. (General Exception and Special Urgency).

1.8 The Cabinet, at their meeting on 6 April 2022, took a key decision relating to proposals to the Sale of Bilbrook House site, Codsall. (General Exception).

1.9 The Cabinet, at their meeting on 20 April 2022, took a key decision regarding Indemnity Clauses and Decision Making for Looked After Children/Use of Regulated Placements. (General Exception).

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the use of the General Exception and Special Urgency provisions contained in the Council's Constitution in respect of the Cabinet's decisions set out above, be noted.