

EXECUTIVE AND DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE RULES PART A – THE EXECUTIVE

1. RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

1.1 Who may make executive decisions

The Leader may discharge any functions which are the responsibility of the Executive¹; or may provide for executive functions to be discharged collectively by all Executive Members meeting as the Executive Board; or by

- an individual Executive Member²;
- a committee of the Executive;
- a Community Committee;
- the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- joint arrangements;
- another local authority; or
- an officer.

1.2 Appointment of Executive Members

The Leader will appoint a Deputy Leader and up to eight additional Members of the Executive Board³. In addition, the Leader may appoint Deputy Executive Members and Support Executive Members.

At the annual meeting of the Council, the Leader will present to the Council the names, addresses⁴ and wards of the Executive Members, and the names of any Members appointed as Deputy Executive Members and Support Executive Members⁵.

Subject to Article 7, the Leader may appoint Executive Members (and where a vacancy in office arises must appoint a Deputy Leader), Deputy Executive Members or Support Executive Members or remove them from this office at any time⁶. The Leader will report any such appointment or removal to the next ordinary meeting of the Council. The appointment or removal will take effect upon publication of the decision notice.

¹ Subject to any provisions made under Local Government Act 2000 in relation to the discharge of functions by area committees, another local authority or jointly).

² This does not currently take place in Leeds

³ 'Executive Members'

⁴ Save where withheld from publication under Section 32 of the Localism Act

⁵ As detailed in Part 3 Section 3A of the Constitution.

⁶ This decision will be recorded in accordance with Rule 7.2.

1.3 **Delegation of Executive Functions**

1.3.1 Scheme of Delegation

At the annual meeting, the Leader will present to the Council a written record of executive delegations made by them for inclusion in the Council's scheme of delegation at Part 3 to this Constitution. The document presented by the Leader will contain the following information about executive functions in relation to the coming year:

- the extent of authority of the Executive Board;
- the extent of any authority delegated to individual Executive Members, including details of any limitation on their authority⁷;
- the terms of reference and constitution of such executive committees as the Leader appoints and the names of Executive Members appointed to them;
- the nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions to Community Committees, the Health and Wellbeing Board, any other authority or any joint arrangements and the names of those Executive Members appointed to any joint committee for the coming year; and
- the nature and extent of any delegation to officers with details of any limitation on that delegation, and the title of the officer to whom the delegation is made.

The Leader may amend the scheme of delegation relating to executive functions at any time during the year⁸. The decision notice must set out the extent of the amendment to the scheme of delegation, and whether it entails the withdrawal of delegation from any person, body, committee or the Executive Board. The amendments will take effect upon publication of the decision notice unless otherwise stated thereon. The Leader will present a report to the next ordinary meeting of the Council setting out the changes made by the Leader.

1.3.2 **Decision Making By Community Committees**

- The Executive Board shall determine from time to time the executive functions⁹ that may be exercised by Community Committees. These functions will be exercisable concurrently by the Executive Board and, in accordance with the Officer Delegation Scheme (Executive Functions), by Directors. These functions will be exercised in accordance with Rule 3 below.

⁷ There are currently no arrangements for decision making by individual Members.

⁸ This decision will be recorded in accordance with Rule 7.2

⁹ Part 3 Sections 3C and 3D of the Constitution provide details of the extent of the delegation determined by the executive.

1.4 **Sub-delegation of executive functions**

Subject to any statutory provisions about the discharge of functions by community committees¹⁰, by another local authority, or the joint exercise of functions:

- if the Leader delegates functions to the Executive Board, then unless they direct otherwise, the Executive Board may delegate further to a committee of the executive or to an officer;
- if the Leader delegates functions to an Executive Member, then unless the Leader otherwise directs, that Executive Member may delegate further to an officer.
- if the Leader delegates functions to a committee of the executive, then unless they direct otherwise, the committee may delegate further to an officer.

Where executive functions have been delegated, that fact does not prevent the discharge of delegated functions by the person or body who delegated them.

2. EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

2.1 **Executive Meeting Rules**

Save for those decisions delegated to a Community Committee, which are to be taken in accordance with the Community Committee Procedure Rules, where executive decisions are delegated to a committee of the Executive, the rules applying to executive decisions taken by them shall be the same as those applying to those taken by the Executive Board. References to the Leader shall be understood as references to the Chair of the relevant executive committee.

2.2 **Executive Meetings – when and where**

The Executive Board will meet at a frequency, location and time agreed by the Leader.

2.3 **Notice of Public Meetings**¹¹

The Head of Democratic Services will arrange to give notice of the time and place of a public meeting by publishing the agenda, together with every report, for that meeting on the Council's website at least five clear working days before the meeting.

Where the meeting is convened less than five clear working days before the meeting, notice will be given by publishing the agenda, together with every report, for that meeting on the Council's website at the time the meeting is convened.

¹⁰ This shall include provisions about the discharge of functions by area committees.

¹¹ Regulations 6 & 7, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

Where an item is added to the agenda for a meeting after publication of that agenda, copies of the revised agenda and any report relating to that item, will be published on the Council's website when the item is added to the agenda.

Nothing in this rule requires a copy of an agenda, item or report to be available for inspection by the public until a copy is available to members of the decision-making body concerned.

2.4 Exclusion of the Public from Meetings of the Executive Board¹²

All meetings of the Executive Board will be in public¹³. However the public¹⁴ must be excluded from the part or parts of a meeting whenever:-

- Confidential information is likely to be disclosed during an item of business;
- The meeting passes a resolution, identifying the relevant part of the meeting to which it applies, that the public should be excluded because exempt information, described with reference to Rule 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, is likely to be disclosed during an item of business; or
- A lawful power is used to exclude a member or members of the public in order to maintain orderly conduct or prevent misbehaviour at the meeting.

The public may only be excluded from that part or parts of the meeting to which the circumstances set out above relate, and where, if required, notice has been given in accordance with Rule 2.3 above.

2.5 Notice Of Meetings At Which Exempt Or Confidential Information Is To Be Considered¹⁵

2.5.1 Where the whole or part of any report is not available for inspection by the public because it contains confidential¹⁶ or exempt¹⁷ information every copy of that report or part of that report must be marked "not for publication" and must state that it contains confidential information or, by reference to Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 the description of exempt information which it contains.

2.5.2 28 Days' Notice

At least 28 clear calendar days before a meeting at which exempt or confidential information is to be considered, the Head of Democratic Services will arrange for a

¹² Regulation 3, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

¹³ The Recording Protocol: Third Party Recording of Committees, Boards and Panels, set out in the Access to Information Procedure Rules applies.

¹⁴ Members of the Council and officers attending the meeting in the course of their employment shall not be considered to be members of the Public.

¹⁵ Regulation 5, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

¹⁶ As defined at Rule 9.2 Access to Information Procedure Rules.

¹⁷ As defined at Rule 10.4 Access to Information Procedure Rules.

notice to be published on the Council’s website of the intention to hold a meeting, or part of a meeting of the Executive Board¹⁸ in private.

The notice will include a statement of the reasons why it is intended that the meeting, or part of the meeting, should be held in private.

2.5.3 5 Days Notice

At least five clear working days before a meeting at which exempt or confidential information is to be considered, the Head of Democratic Services will publish further notice of the Executive’s intention to hold the meeting in private. This will be done by including in an open report to the meeting:-

- A statement of the reasons for the meeting to be held in private;
- Details of any representations received about why the meeting should be open to the public; and
- A statement of response to any such representations

2.5.4 Urgent Meetings At Which Exempt Or Confidential Information Is To Be Considered

Where the date a meeting must be held makes compliance with rules 2.5.2 and 2.5.3 impracticable then the meeting may only consider exempt or confidential items in private with the agreement of the chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board¹⁹. In considering the matter the Scrutiny Board Chair must be satisfied that the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

As soon as reasonably practicable after obtaining the Scrutiny Chair’s agreement the Head of Democratic Services will publish on the Council’s website notice of the intention to hold the meeting at which exempt or confidential information is to be considered. This will be done by including in an open report to the meeting:-

- The reason why the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred
- Confirmation of the agreement of the chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board.

2.6 Statutory Officers Attendance at Meetings

The Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer, and their nominees are entitled to attend any meeting of the Executive and its committees.

2.7 Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Board shall be four. The quorum for a meeting of a committee of the Executive shall be three.

¹⁸ Or a Committee fulfilling executive functions

¹⁹ Or in their absence the Lord Mayor, or in the absence of the Lord Mayor, the vice chair of the authority.

2.8 **How decisions are to be taken by the Executive Board**

Executive decisions which are the responsibility of the Executive Board will be taken at a meeting convened in accordance with Rules 2.1 to 2.3 set out above.

2.9 **Who presides**

The Leader and in their absence, the Deputy Leader will preside at any meeting of the Executive Board or its committees at which they are present. In the absence of both, the Leader may appoint another person to do so. If no such appointment is made, those present at the meeting shall decide by majority who should preside.

2.10 **Membership**

The Executive Board shall comprise those Members listed at Part 3, Section 3A of the Constitution.

In the absence of an Executive Board Member, the Executive Board may invite any Member it considers appropriate to attend its meetings and to speak on behalf of the absent Member. However that Member will not be considered a co-opted member of the Executive Board and will not be able to vote on business being transacted.

2.11 **What business?**

At each meeting of the Executive Board the following business will be conducted:

- consideration of the minutes of the last meeting;
- declarations of interest, if any;
- matters referred to the Executive Board (whether by a Scrutiny Board or by the Council) for reconsideration by the Executive Board in accordance with the provisions contained in these or other relevant Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution;
- consideration of reports from Scrutiny Boards; and
- matters set out in the agenda for the meeting (which shall indicate which are Key Decisions and which are not).

2.11.1 **Who can put items on the Executive agenda?**

The Leader will decide upon the schedule for the meetings of the Executive. They may put on the agenda of any Executive meeting any matter which they wish, whether or not authority has been delegated to the Executive Board, a committee of it or any officer in respect of that matter.

The Head of Democratic Services will make sure that an item is placed on the agenda of the next available meeting of the Executive Board where a relevant Scrutiny Board or the full Council have resolved that an item be considered by the Executive.

In exceptional circumstances the Council's statutory officers may require that a matter be considered by the Executive Board²⁰.

2.12 **Recording Of Executive Decisions Taken At Meetings**²¹

As soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event within 2 working days, after any meeting of the Executive or within 10 working days of any of its committees, the Head of Democratic Services or, where no officer was present, the person presiding at the meeting, will produce a minute of every decision taken at that meeting and publish it on the Council's website together with the report in relation to the decision made. The minute will include;

- A record of the decision including the date it was made,
- a statement of the reasons for each decision,
- details of any alternative options considered and rejected at that meeting and
- a record of any interest declared by any Member together with a note of any dispensation granted in respect of that interest.

3. **DECISION MAKING BY COMMUNITY COMMITTEES**

3.1 Where a Community Committee or a relevant Director is of the opinion that a proposal, decision, or omission in relation to an executive function would result in:

- minimum service standards specified by the Executive Board not being achieved; or
- an adverse impact on service delivery or the achievement of targets; or
- delivery of any service in that area or the area of another Community Committee being adversely affected,

the Chair of that Community Committee or that Director shall report that opinion²² to the appropriate Executive Member, who may direct that the relevant delegated authority should not be exercised, and the matter should be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

3.2 Where the Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer is of the opinion that a proposal, decision or omission of a Community Committee is or if made would be

- a) outside its terms of reference; or

²⁰ The Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer may include an item for consideration on the agenda of an Executive Board meeting and may require the Head of Democratic Services to call such a meeting in pursuance of their statutory duties. In other circumstances where any two of the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer are of the opinion that a meeting of the Executive Board needs to be called to consider a matter that requires a decision, they may jointly include an item on the agenda of an Executive Board meeting. If there is no meeting of the Executive Board soon enough to deal with the issue in question, then the person(s) entitled to include an item on the agenda may also require that a meeting be convened at which the matter will be considered.

²¹ Regulation 12, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

²² where that opinion is in relation to a decision taken by a Community Committee, the report to the Executive Member must be made within 5 working days of the relevant decision notice being published

- b) outside any relevant strategy or plan approved by the Executive Board; or
- c) outside the Budget and Policy Framework; or
- d) not in accordance with any relevant procedure rules

the Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer shall refer the matter to the Executive Board and/or Council as appropriate for consideration at the next available meeting.

- 3.3 Where a matter has been referred to the Executive Board or the Council under 3. 1 or 3. 2 above, the implementation of the proposal or decision shall be suspended until the matter is considered by the Executive Board and/or the Council.
- 3.4 Where a matter has been referred to the Executive Board under 3.1, or paragraphs (a) or (b) of 3. 2, above, the Executive Board may:
- decide the matter itself; or
 - endorse any decision already made; or
 - refer the matter back to the Community Committee for determination; and/or
 - make any other decision it considers appropriate.
- 3.5 Where a matter has been referred to the Executive Board under 3. 2 (c) or (d) then the Executive Board may;
- refer the matter to the Council for consideration²³; or
 - decide the matter within the Budget and Policy Framework / in accordance with the procedure rules; or
 - refer the matter back to the Community Committee for determination within the budget and policy framework / in accordance with the procedure rules.
- 3.6 Before deciding any matter in accordance with Rule 3. 4 or 3. 5, the Executive Board will consider a report from a Statutory Officer or Director detailing as appropriate:-
- whether minimum service standards for a relevant Community Committee Function are being achieved;
 - how any delegated budget for the executive function is being utilised;
 - whether a proposal decision or omission by a Community Committee or a Director would result in
 - minimum service standards specified by the Executive Board not being achieved; or
 - an adverse impact on service delivery or the achievement of targets; or
 - delivery of any service in that area or the area of another Community Committee being adversely affected;
 - whether a proposal, decision or omission by a Community Committee
 - is outside its terms of reference; or

²³ The Council's options are as set out in Budget and Policy Framework Rules

- is outside any relevant strategy or plan approved by the Executive Board; or
- is outside the Budget and Policy Framework; or
- is not in accordance with any relevant procedure rules.

EXECUTIVE AND DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE RULES PART B – DECISION MAKING

4. OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

4.1 These rules should be read and understood in conjunction with our values which shape our behaviours and underpin the way in which we work to achieve our ambitions.

4.2 All decisions of the authority, whether made by Council, Executive Board Councillors collectively²⁴ or officers, will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- Proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
- Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers
- Respect for human rights
- A presumption in favour of openness
- Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
- An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision
- Natural justice
- Positive promotion of equality of opportunity

4.3 All decisions will be taken in accordance with the arrangements for responsibility for functions set out in Part 3; the Financial Regulations, Contracts Procedure Rules and such other relevant rules set out in Part 4; and the Protocol on the Role of Members and Officers in Decision Making set out in Part 5 of this constitution.

4.4 In taking decisions officers will ensure that they:

- take appropriate advice in relation to legal, financial and workforce considerations;
- make appropriate arrangements for assessing the impact of the decision in relation to equalities; and
- undertake appropriate consultation and engagement
- Liaise with:
 - Chief Digital and Information Officer in relation to all matters relating to the Council's use of digital technology;
 - Chief Asset Management and Regeneration Officer in relation to all matters relating to the Council's land and building
 - Relevant internal service provider in relation to any procurement.

²⁴ For example in Committees or Sub-Committees

5. ADVANCE PUBLICITY IN CONNECTION WITH KEY DECISIONS

5.1 List of Forthcoming Key Decisions²⁵

A List of Forthcoming Key Decisions will be published on the Council's website.

If it is intended to take a Key Decision to discharge an Executive function, the decision taker²⁶ will arrange for details of the matter, as set out below, to be included in the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions, not less than 28 clear calendar days in advance of the date of the proposed decision²⁷.

The List of Forthcoming Key Decisions will give the following information in so far as it is available or might reasonably be obtained:

- the matter in respect of which a decision is to be made;
- where the decision taker is an individual, their name and title, if any and where the decision taker is a body, its name and a list of its Members;
- the date on which, or the period within which, the decision will be taken;
- a list of the documents submitted to the decision taker for consideration in relation to the matter;
- the address from which, subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of, or extracts from, any documents listed are available;
- that other documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision taker; and
- the procedure for requesting details of those documents (if any) as they become available.

Particulars of Key Decisions included in the List of Forthcoming Decisions need not include exempt information and may not include confidential information.

5.2 General Exception²⁸

If a matter which is likely to be a Key Decision has not been included in the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions for 28 clear calendar days before the decision is planned to be taken and the decision must be taken by such a date that it is impracticable to defer the decision until the decision has been included in the List of Forthcoming Decisions for 28 clear calendar days, the decision may still be taken if:

- A copy of the agenda for the meeting or the delegated decision notice has been forwarded to the chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board²⁹; and

²⁵ Regulation 9, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

²⁶ If the decision is to be taken by Executive Board or an Executive Committee then the officer whose report will be placed before the committee for consideration in relation to the matter is responsible for ensuring that appropriate details are included within the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions.

²⁷ A link to the relevant matter will be forwarded to every Member of the authority on publication to the Council's website.

²⁸ Regulation 10, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

²⁹ This will be deemed to happen when all Members are forwarded a link to the decision on publication of the DDN and report.

- A copy of that agenda or delegated decision notice has been published on the Council's website; and
- at least 5 clear working days have elapsed since compliance with these requirements.

Any delegated decision notice published in accordance with this rule will state why it is impracticable to include the decision in the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions for a period of 28 clear calendar days prior to taking the decision.

5.3 **Special Urgency**³⁰

5.3.1 Use of Special Urgency

If by virtue of the date by which a Key decision must be taken Rule 5.1 (List of Forthcoming Key Decisions) and Rule 5.2 (General Exception) cannot be followed, then the decision can only be taken if the relevant Director obtains the agreement of the chair of a relevant Scrutiny Board³¹ that the decision is urgent and that taking the decision cannot be reasonably deferred.

As soon as reasonably practicable after obtaining the relevant agreement the following information will be published on the Council's website³²:-

- the agenda for the meeting at which the decision is to be taken or the delegated decision notice;
- the report in relation to the urgent item; and
- the record of the Scrutiny Chair's agreement that the matter is urgent.

Any delegated decision notice published in accordance with this rule will state why the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

Details of any decision taken in accordance with this rule will be included in the Leader's report to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee made in accordance with Rule 5.3.2 below.

5.3.2 Annual Reports On Special Urgency Decisions³³

The Corporate Governance and Audit Committee will receive on behalf of the Council reports giving details of the executive decisions taken in the circumstances set out in Rule 5.3.1 (special urgency) in the preceding period.

The report will be submitted no less than annually and will include details of

- the number of decisions so taken,

³⁰ Regulation 11, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

³¹ If there is no chair of a relevant Scrutiny Board, or if the chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board is unable to act, then the agreement of the Lord Mayor or in the absence of the Lord Mayor the vice chair of the Council will suffice.

³² The Head of Democratic Services will make the necessary arrangements to publish a committee agenda and the Director will arrange for publication of a delegated decision notice.

³³ Regulation 19, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

- each decision made, and
- a summary of the matters in respect of which each decision was made.

5.4 **Publication of Report**³⁴

- 5.4.1 Where a Director³⁵ receives a report which they intend to take into account in making any Key Decision, then they will not make the decision until the report has been available for public inspection for at least 5 clear working days.
- 5.4.2 The decision taker will arrange for the publication of a delegated decision notice, stating their intention to make the decision, together with a copy of the report upon which the decision is to be based on the Council's website³⁶.
- 5.4.3 If, for any reason, the Director has complied with Rule 5.1 (List of Forthcoming Key Decisions) but is not able to comply with 5.4.1 (Publication of report) above they shall seek the agreement of the relevant Executive Member³⁷ to proceed with taking the Key Decision without complying with the requirement to publish the report and delegated decision notice 5 clear working days in advance of the decision being taken.

Any delegated decision notice published in accordance with this rule will state why it is not possible to give 5 clear working days' notice of the report prior to taking the decision and confirm that the Executive Member consents to the decision being taken.

The Director will advise the relevant Scrutiny Chair of the circumstances and details of the decision as soon as practicable after the decision is taken.

- 5.4.4 The Corporate Governance and Audit Committee will receive reports giving details of any Key decisions taken in accordance with Rule 5.4.3.

The report will be submitted no less than annually and will include details of

- the number of decisions so taken,
- each decision made, and
- a summary of the matters in respect of which each decision was made.

³⁴ There is no statutory requirement to publish a report, but this local arrangement is adopted to aid transparency and accountability.

³⁵ Or other officer taking a decision in accordance with the Director's sub-delegation scheme

³⁶ A link to the relevant matter will be forwarded to every Member of the authority on publication to the Council's website.

³⁷ The Executive member with portfolio oversight of the relevant function, or in their absence the Leader of Council or in the absence of both the Executive Member and the Leader, the Deputy Leader of Council

6. TAKING EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

6.1 Compliance With the Budget and Policy Framework

The Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained within part 4 of this constitution set out the procedure to be followed to adopt or amend the Budget and Policy Framework.

Subject to paragraphs 6.1.1 to 6.1.3 below, all decisions in relation to Executive Functions must be taken in line with the Budget and Policy Framework³⁸.

6.1.1 Taking Advice

If it is intended to make an Executive Decision, which might be considered to fall outside the Budget or Policy Framework the decision taker shall take advice from the Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer as to whether the decision they want to make would be contrary to the budget and policy framework.

Where a Scrutiny Board is of the opinion that an Executive Decision is, or if made would be, contrary to the budget and policy framework, then it shall seek advice from the Monitoring Officer and/or Chief Finance Officer.

In the event that the Monitoring Officer or the Chief Finance Officer concludes that the decision would not be a departure from the budget and policy framework they shall prepare a report to the relevant Scrutiny Board, with a copy to the Executive Board.

6.1.2 Referral to Council

If a decision has yet to be made, or has been made but not yet implemented, and the Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer are of the view that the proposed decision would be contrary to the budget and policy framework, and the decision taker still intends to make or to implement the decision;

- the Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer shall report to the Executive Board, with a copy to the relevant Scrutiny Board and to every Member of the Council;
- the Executive Board shall meet to consider the report of the Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer and shall prepare a report to Council; and
- the decision taker shall refer the decision to the Council for decision or ratification as appropriate,

In such cases, no further action will be taken in respect of the decision or its implementation until the Council has met and considered the matter.

³⁸ Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, Schedule 4

The Council shall meet within 28 days of the referral by the decision taker. At the meeting it will receive the Executive Board's report of the decision or proposals and the advice of the Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer.

If Council decides that the decision is not contrary to the budget and policy framework it shall endorse the decision as falling within the existing Budget and Policy Framework.

If Council decides that the decision is contrary to the budget and policy framework it may either:

- approve or ratify the decision outside the budget and policy framework;
- amend the Council's budget and policy framework as necessary to encompass the decision and approve or ratify the decision with immediate effect; or
- require the Executive to reconsider the matter in accordance with the advice of either the Monitoring Officer/Chief Finance Officer.

6.1.3 Urgent Decisions Outside The Budget Or Policy Framework³⁹

Any decision which is contrary to the policy framework⁴⁰, or not wholly in accordance with the budget⁴¹ approved by full Council, may only be taken by the Council, unless:

- the decision is urgent and it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the full Council;
- the decision taker has briefed the chair of a relevant Scrutiny Board⁴² about why it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of full Council, and
- the chair agrees that the decision is urgent.

The reasons why it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of full Council and the consent of the chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board⁴³ to the decision being taken as a matter of urgency must be noted on the record of the decision, together with the reasons for the Chair's consent.

The decision taker will provide a full report to the next available Council meeting after the decision is taken explaining:

- the decision,
- the reasons for it; and
- why the decision was treated as a matter of urgency.

³⁹ Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, Regulation 5(2)

⁴⁰ Or amendments which may be made to the policy framework in accordance with the provisions for in year changes to policy framework set out in the Budget and Policy procedure Rules.

⁴¹ Or virements made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Procedure Rules.

⁴² or in the absence of the chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board the consent of the Lord Mayor, and in the absence of both, the Deputy Lord Mayor

⁴³ Or Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor as appropriate

7. PROCEDURE AFTER TAKING A DECISION

7.1 Recording of Executive Decisions Taken At Meetings

Decisions of the Executive and its Committees will be recorded in accordance with Rule 2.12 above.

7.2 Recording Of Executive Decisions Taken by Officers⁴⁴ or the Leader

7.2.1 Key decisions

As soon as reasonably practicable after a Key decision has been taken by an individual Member or an officer, they will prepare a record of the decision and arrange for its publication on the Council's website⁴⁵.

A Key decision will be recorded by Delegated Decision Notice supported by a report setting out the reasons for the decision and any relevant appendices. The record will include;

- A record of the decision including the date it was made,
- a statement of the reasons for it,
- details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time of making the decision, and
- a record of any interest declared by any Executive Member consulted by the officer who made the decision together with a note of any dispensation granted in respect of that interest.

7.2.2 Administrative decisions

Subject to Rule 7.2.3 below, there is no requirement to publish administrative Decisions, however officers are responsible for retaining a proportionate written record of administrative decisions, and the reasons for them, which is sufficient for audit and evidential purposes, and for ensuring that all those who need to know are informed promptly of the decision.

7.2.3 Publishable Administrative decisions

As soon as reasonably practicable after a Publishable Administrative decision has been taken by an officer or the Leader, they will prepare a record of the decision and arrange for its publication on the Council's website.

A Publishable Administrative decision will be recorded by Delegated Decision Notice supported by a report setting out the reasons for the decision and any relevant appendices. The record will include:

⁴⁴ Regulation 13, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

⁴⁵ In practice this will only apply to key decisions taken under special urgency or short notice provisions above, as all other Key decisions will be published in accordance with Rule 5.4 above, and will therefore, subject to the provisions in respect of urgency, be published no less than 5 clear working days in advance of the decision being taken. The Council's web site will in these circumstances contain details of the dates upon which the decision will be taken and the Call In period will expire.

- A record of the decision including the date it was made,
- a statement of the reasons for it,
- details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time of making the decision, and
- a record of any interest declared by any Executive Member consulted by the officer who made the decision together with a note of any dispensation granted in respect of that interest.

8. **IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

8.1 **Implementation of Decisions Which are Subject to Call-In⁴⁶**

Decisions which are eligible for, and not exempted from Call-In in accordance with rules 8.1.1 and 8.1.2 below should not be implemented until the Call-In procedure is exhausted in relation to those decisions⁴⁷.

8.1.1 **Decisions Eligible for Call-In**

Subject to the exceptions set out below, the following may be called in to be reviewed and scrutinised by the relevant Scrutiny Board⁴⁸:

- all decisions of the Executive Board;
- Executive decisions taken by the Health and Wellbeing Board⁴⁹; and
- Key Decisions taken by Officers.

The power to Call-In decisions does not extend to;

- Decisions which have been the subject of a previous Call-In;
- Decisions made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules;
- Decisions made by the Leader in relation to the executive arrangements
- Decisions made by Community Committees;
- Decisions made under regulatory arrangements;

⁴⁶ The Local Government Act 2000 requires that Overview and Scrutiny Committees *be given the power to recommend that a decision made but not implemented, be reconsidered*. The Act gives local authorities considerable discretion over the detailed operation of such a “Call In” mechanism.

⁴⁷ The Call In procedure will be exhausted when:-

- the Call In period expires if the decision is not called in (Steps should not be taken to implement any decision subject to Call In until after 12 noon on the sixth working day after publication, to ensure that the Scrutiny Officer has had opportunity to advise them of any request for call in received before the expiry of the call in period);
- at the end of the call in meeting if the decision is released for implementation; or
- when the decision has been confirmed or amended in accordance with these rules if the decision is subject to a recommendation that it be reconsidered.

⁴⁸ Where a decision falls within the terms of reference of more than one Scrutiny Board, the Scrutiny Officer will determine the relevant Scrutiny Board, after consultation with Scrutiny Chairs.

⁴⁹ That is functions delegated to the Health and Wellbeing Board by the Leader

- Decisions made by Joint Committees; or
- Decisions not taken by the authority.

8.1.2 Exemption from Call-In

The decision taker may declare a decision as being exempt from Call-In if the decision taker considers that the decision is urgent (i.e. that any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests).

Records of decisions taken will indicate where a decision has been declared exempt from Call-In and will indicate:-

- what the implications would be if the decision were to be delayed by the operation of the Call-In mechanism; and
- why the decision could not have been taken earlier so as to have been eligible for Call-In.

There will be no appeal mechanism against a decision to exempt a decision from Call-In.

8.2 Operation of Call-In

8.2.1 Initiation of Call-In

To initiate a Call-In, a Member request must be submitted to the Scrutiny Officer⁵⁰ by 5 p.m. of the fifth working day after a decision has been published.

The request must be made on the approved pro forma and contain the original signatures⁵¹ of those calling in the decision⁵².

If a Member withdraws their signature from the Call-In request prior to the expiry of the Call-In period, the decision may still be called in provided sufficient Members add their signatures to the Call-In request.

The decision may be called in by either;

- two non executive elected Members (who are not from the same political group); or
- five non executive elected Members

one of whom shall be the nominated signatory.

⁵⁰ This Officer is the Head of Democratic Services.

⁵¹ An electronic signature will only be considered a valid 'original signature' for the purpose of initiating a call in where it can be demonstrated that it has been included on an approved proforma at the direct request of the individual seeking to call-in a decision. Signatures included as a result of a request from a third party on behalf of an elected member will not be valid.

⁵² An Elected Member who is not a member of a political group may be a signatory but co-opted members may not sign a Call In request.

8.2.2 Grounds for and consequences of Calling in a decision

All requests must detail on the pro forma why in the opinion of the signatories the decision was not taken in accordance with the principles set out in Rule 4.2 above (Principles of Decision Making), or where relevant issues do not appear to have been taken into consideration.

Prior to submitting a Call-In request, the nominated signatory must contact the relevant officer or Executive Member to discuss their concerns and their reasons for wanting to Call-In the decision. The nominated signatory must also ascertain the financial consequences to the authority of having the decision Called In. The outcome of this contact must be detailed on the Call-In request proforma.

8.2.3 Convening a Meeting

Upon receipt of the request, the Scrutiny Officer will, in consultation with the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board, convene a special meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Board, to take place within seven clear working days of the Call-In request being received⁵³.

8.2.4 Procedure for a Call-In Meeting

At the meeting the Scrutiny Board:

- Will invite signatories to the notification⁵⁴ to explain the reasons for the Call-In⁵⁵.
- Shall give the relevant member of the Executive Board, Health and Wellbeing Board or officer (as appropriate) opportunity to respond to the reasons given for the Call-In.
- May make such further enquiries as it considers necessary and appropriate.
- May also extend the invitation to other relevant witnesses, as considered appropriate, in order to specifically assist the Board in its deliberations over the called in decision.
- May, in exceptional circumstances, resolve to adjourn the meeting to consider information regarded as essential for the Board to come to a conclusion. The maximum time allowed for an adjournment is 5 working days.

⁵³ Where an ordinary meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Board is scheduled within 10 working days of the Call In request being received the Scrutiny Officer may exercise discretion as to whether the Call In request can be dealt with at that meeting, or whether it is necessary to convene an additional meeting.

⁵⁴ or their nominees

⁵⁵ The signatories should specify which of the principles of decision making (set out in Rule 4.2 above) of the constitution) has not been followed. The signatories may also provide further written evidence provided this supports the stated reasons for calling in the decision.

8.2.5 Outcome of a Call-In Meeting

The Scrutiny Board shall then either;

- release the decision for implementation; or
- recommend to the decision-maker that the decision should be reconsidered.

If the Scrutiny Board resolves that a decision is to be referred back for reconsideration, the Scrutiny Officer will prepare a report⁵⁶ within three working days of the Scrutiny Board meeting. This report will be submitted to the decision maker⁵⁷.

8.2.6 Reconsideration of Decisions

a) Confirmation of Decisions

- i. Subject to paragraph ii. Below, if the Decision Taker wishes to confirm the original decision, that decision shall be submitted to the next Executive Board meeting.
- ii. If urgency prevents the decision taker from submitting the decision to Executive Board for confirmation;
 - The Director shall obtain the approval of the relevant Executive Board Member before implementation;
 - Details of the Executive Member approval, together with reasons of urgency will be included in the new delegated decision form; and
 - The Director and relevant Executive Board Member will also be required to attend and give their reasoning to the next available meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Board

b) Variation of Decisions

If it is intended to vary the decision following recommendations made by the Scrutiny Board then the amended decision is not defined as a Key decision, regardless of the financial or impact thresholds⁵⁸. It will not therefore be necessary to include the proposed variation of decision in the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions or to give notice of the proposed decision.

If the original decision was taken by the Executive Board the Executive Board may vary the decision.

If the original decision was taken by the Health and Wellbeing Board or by or on behalf of a Director, the Health and Wellbeing Board, or the relevant Director may vary the decision.

⁵⁶ the provisions relating to a minority report do not apply to any decision of the Committee in relation to a matter which has been called in.

⁵⁷ Where the decision was taken by Executive Board or the Health and Wellbeing Board the report will be submitted to the next meeting of that Board.

⁵⁸ Article 13.6.2(b)

8.2.7 Record of Revised decision

In all instances a revised record of the decision, indicating the outcome of decision taker's further deliberations, must be published in accordance with Rule 2.12 or 7.2.3 above.

8.3 **Implementation of Decisions Which are Not Subject to Call-In**

Decisions which are not available for Call-In in accordance with rules 8.1.1 to 8.1.2⁵⁹ Call-In above should be implemented as follows:-

8.3.1 Key Decisions (ineligible or exempt from call in)

Key Decisions should be recorded in accordance with Rules 2.12 or 7.2.1 above as appropriate but may be implemented as soon as they have been taken.

8.3.2 Administrative Decisions

All administrative decisions may be implemented as soon as they have been taken⁶⁰.

9. **SCRUTINY OF DECISIONS WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WRONGLY TREATED⁶¹**

9.1 Where the relevant Scrutiny Board is of the opinion that

- an executive decision has been made and was not treated as a Key Decision, and
- that it should have been treated as a Key Decision

that Scrutiny Board may require, by resolution passed at a meeting of that Scrutiny Board, the Decision Taker to submit a report to the Council within such reasonable time as the Scrutiny Board specifies.

9.2 The relevant Director will prepare a report for submission to the next available meeting of the Council⁶² following the end of the period specified by the Scrutiny Board.

The report to Council will set out particulars of;

- The decision,
- The reasons for the decision,
- The individual or body making the decision, and

⁵⁹ i.e., they are either not eligible for call in, or if eligible have been exempted from call in by the decision maker.

⁶⁰ It is therefore possible that a publishable administrative decision is implemented before it is reasonably practicable to publish.

⁶¹ Regulation 18, Executive Arrangement Regulations 2012

⁶² Allowing 5 clear working days to prepare the report prior to dispatch of the summons.

- if the Leader is of the opinion that it was not a key decision, the reasons for that opinion.

10. PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

10.1 Access to agendas, minutes, reports and background papers.

Rules 5 to 7 and 15.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules apply to documents and records of meetings and decisions published in accordance with these rules.

10.2 Confidential and Exempt Information

Rules 8, 9 and 10 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules apply to information contained within documents and records relating to executive decision making

10.3 Freedom of Information

FOI requests will be dealt with in accordance with Rule 11 and Rule 15.1 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

11. MEMBERS ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Rules 12-15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules apply to information held by the Executive.