

Senior Officer Decision

Consultative meeting: Council

Consultative meeting date: 8th December



Exempt from publication

No.

Title: Extension of virtual meeting arrangements

Links to:

- (i) **Officer report to consultative meeting**
[Council 8th December 2021](#)
- (ii) **Recording of consultative meeting**
[Council 8th December 2021](#)
- (iii) **Minutes of consultative meeting**
Not available at time of decision.

Recommendation:

1. Save as provided for in Recommendation 3, until 23:59 10th May 2022 (or such earlier period as may be decided by subsequent decision);
 - a. all meetings of the Council and its committees (but not sub-committees), panels and forums and the Cabinet shall be held virtually using available technology but shall be on the basis of being consultative only other than where specific legislation permits decision making at virtual meetings.
 - b. decisions (including all executive and regulatory matters) that would have been taken by those meetings if the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had continued in force shall be delegated to the Chief Executive or relevant Senior Officer in consultation with those meetings.
 - c. in taking decisions under paragraph b, the Chief Executive or relevant Senior Officer shall have heard all of the debate having been at the consultative meeting or seen the recording of it.

2. Until 23:59 10th May 2022 (or such earlier period as may be decided by subsequent decision) the Constitution shall be treated as having been amended to give effect to the above and shall be interpreted purposively on that basis with the final decision on its interpretation to rest with the Chair of Council (having regard to the advice of the Monitoring Officer and / or Head Paid of Service) in accordance with Part 1, Article 5.1.2 of the Constitution.

3. Recommendation 1 is not intended to apply to any of the following;
 - a. The Full Council meeting of 23rd February 2022 to set the budget, which shall be held in person with arrangements to be agreed in consultation with the Chair,
 - b. any sub-committee for quasi-judicial purposes (e.g. Standards Hearing Sub Committee or Licensing Sub Committee when considering taxi licensing matters) where the Head of Paid Service or the Monitoring Officer shall give specific consideration to what are the most suitable arrangements to use at the relevant time and determine the appropriate way to hold the meeting,
 - c. decisions that legislation already permits as ones that can be made by virtual meetings (e.g. Licensing Act 2003).

Authority

Decision of Council on 26th July 2021 to delegate decision making to senior officers until 23.59 17th January 2022.

Officer Decision

Consultations:

I was present at / have watched the recording of the consultative meeting which considered this item

Yes No

Detail any other consultations carried out:

N/A

Other considerations:

Do the legal and finance comments and equalities impact, climate change and risk assessments as detailed in the officer report remain the same.

Yes No

If no, provide the updated assessment below;

Decision:

Confirm the recommendations as detailed.

Reasons for decision:

For the reasons detailed in the report to the Council consultative meeting and following the recommendations from that meeting.

Signed *Henry Gordon Lennox* Dated: 10th December 2021

Senior Officer job title and name: Henry Gordon Lennox, Monitoring Officer

For Democratic Services use.

Website publication Date: