

Report title	Decisions Made Under Urgent Action Powers	
Referring body	N/A	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Ian Brookfield	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Director of Governance	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	jaswinder.kaur@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. To note the decision made under the Council's Urgent Action Powers.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of a decision taken under the Council's Urgent Action Powers since the last Council meeting.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In the light of the Covid-19 situation the Council had to, as a result of the Government's decision on restriction of movement, cancel all Council/Committee meetings until legislation was in place, which allowed remote meetings, and then once that was in place meetings were reintroduced on a phased basis with the first Council meeting since 3 March 2020 taking place on 16 September 2020. In the intervening period the Council's urgent action powers had to be used for any decisions that had to be taken and could not be deferred. These powers were used sparingly and the guiding principles for any decisions were that:

- only those decisions that have to be made (i.e. as a result of Covid-19 or related matters, including support of businesses in this difficult time or as a result of an immovable deadline) would be made.
- the decisions would be made available on a regular basis to Councillors through the update to Councillors and in any event through a weekly roundup of the decisions made through the relevant pages on the Council's website so that the Public can access them.
- the decisions made would be reported to the next available Council

- 2.2 The relevant powers under the Constitution are:

Council Decision

6.10 Urgent Decisions outside the Budget or Policy Framework

An urgent decision which is contrary to the Policy Framework or budget adopted by the Council may be taken by the Cabinet if the Chair of the Scrutiny Board agrees that the decision is urgent. If no such Chair is available (or willing) then the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor may agree that it is urgent before a decision is taken.

6.11 Cabinet Decision

Where an urgent decision on a matter delegated to the Cabinet is required but it is not feasible to arrange a meeting of the Cabinet, the appropriate Director, in conjunction with the Head of Paid Service is authorised to take the appropriate urgent action provided that the action shall have first been discussed with and approved in writing by the Leader (or in the Leader's absence, the Deputy Leader) and two other Cabinet Members and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Board or their nominees.

The written authorisation must include details of the proposal and the justification for the course of action. Expenditure must be within existing budgets. Any action taken under this rule must be reported to the next available meeting of the Cabinet for information. Such decisions will not be subject to the usual Call In procedures set out in Part 4, although they may be examined after implementation to determine whether the justification for the course of action was appropriate.

2.3 This report sets out the decisions that have been made using the Urgent Action powers under the Constitution since last reported to Full Council on 3 March 2021.

3.0 Urgent Action Powers

3.1 The table below details all the decisions taken under the Council's Urgent Action Power's since last reported to Full Council on 3 March 2021:

Part 1 – Open Items

Our Council

Decision maker	Date Approved	Contact Officer
Leader of the Council Councillor Jonathan Crofts Councillor Linda Leach Councillor Stephen Simkins Councillor Paul Sweet	19 March 2021	Claire Nye 01902 550478
Title and summary of decision		
The Marches Help to Own Project Agreed an equity investment of up to £5.7 million alongside a West Midlands Combined Authority ("WMCA") investment of up to £4.78 million in a pilot for a new affordable housing product called 'Help to Own' ("H2O") and that the entering into of any agreements or documents arising out of equity investment be delegated to the Cabinet Members for City Assets and Housing and Resources in conjunction with the Director of Governance and the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer).		