

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
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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 Louise Miles Councillor Stephen Simkins Councillor Paul Sweet Councillor Jonathan Crofts	14 April 2021	David Pattison 01902 553840
Title and summary of decision		
Urgent decisions relating to budget decisions related to Council actions as result of Covid-19		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approved the provision of Business Rates Discretionary relief as announced in respect of 2021-2022 business rate liability, in line with Government Guidance, and authorised the Head of Revenues and Benefits to make the required reductions in business rates in accordance with the relief conditions. In the event that further announcements were made with regards the use of discretionary rates relief for 2021-2022, authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to implement these schemes.2. Approved the establishment of supplementary budgets totalling £11,262,546, fully funded for the Restart Business Grant, and make payments to businesses in line with the conditions of grant.3. Approved that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to establish supplementary budgets funded by grant and make payments to businesses, in line with Government guidelines, for any future mandatory business grants that are announced for 2021-2022, in order that they can be implemented in a timely manner.		

4. Approved the establishment of supplementary budgets for funding received through Government Grants for Test and Trace Support payments and to agree for payments to continue to be made to eligible individuals in line with government criteria.
5. Approved the variation to the criteria for those eligible under the Discretionary Test and Trace Self-Isolation scheme as detailed in section 5, and delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Director of Finance for any further changes to this scheme should this be required.
6. Approved the establishment of revenue supplementary budgets totalling £365,000 for 2021-2022, fully funded by grant for the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (WMSMP). Authority be delegated to the Director of Finance to enter into grants agreements associated with this funding.
7. Approved the establishment of revenue supplementary budgets totalling £267,638 funded from the National Leisure Recovery Fund to support cost pressures associated with the leisure provision and delegated authority to the Director of Public Health to make payments to the provider in line with the grant conditions.
8. Approved the establishment of supplementary budgets totalling £234,488 for 2021-2022, funded from the Welcome Back Fund to support the reopening of the high street and delegated authority to the Director of City Environment to allocate funding in line with the grant conditions.
9. Approved the establishment of supplementary revenue budgets totalling £1,112,457 fully funded from the Adult Social Care Infection and Prevention grant. This grant would be paid as a ring fenced grant with 70% of the funding being transferred directly to care providers, and a 30% discretionary element, to be spent by the local authority in line with grant conditions. Authority be delegated to the Deputy Director of Adults, to make payments to care providers and approve plans on behalf of the council for the allocation of the 30% discretionary element in line with the conditions of grant.
10. Approved the establishment of supplementary revenue budgets totalling £801,348 fully funded from the Rapid Testing grant. This grant would be paid as a ring fenced grant with 60% of the funding being transferred directly to care providers, and a 30% discretionary element, to be spent by the local authority in line with grant conditions. Authority be delegated to the Deputy Director for Adults to make payments to care providers and approve plans on behalf of the council for the allocation of the 40% discretionary element in line with the conditions of grant.
11. Approved the establishment of supplementary revenue budgets totalling £72,469 fully funded by Government grant to provide practical support for those self isolating and delegated authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Director of Finance to allocate funding in line with the grant conditions. Approve the establishment of further supplementary budgets under this scheme should further funding be announced.