

Cabinet/Committee:	Council
Date:	21 February 2008
Subject:	Decisions taken under Urgency Procedure by Portfolio Holders/Leader and Cabinet and Use of Special Urgency Procedure
Responsible Officer:	Hugh Peart - Director of Legal and Governance Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Chris Mote - Strategic Overview, HSP, External Affairs & Property Portfolio Holder
Exempt:	No

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY

This report sets out decisions taken under urgency procedure rules by Portfolio Holders/the Leader and Cabinet, and use of the special urgency procedure.

FOR INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – REPORT

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, any Executive decisions taken as a matter of urgency are to be reported to the next available meeting of the Council.

Appendix A sets out the details of those decisions taken as a matter of urgency since the Council held on 18 October 2007.

In accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, the use of the Special Urgency procedure in relation to Executive decisions is to be reported quarterly to Council. The Special Urgency procedure has been used once since the Council meeting held on 18 October 2007, in relation to the Key decision relating to Direct Payments – Change to rates-structure and up-lift of payment rates, taken by the Leader at the Portfolio Holder Decision Meeting on 5 November 2007.

SECTION 3 – FURTHER INFORMATION

Options considered

As per the individual reports to the Leader, Portfolio Holder and Cabinet.

Consultation

Where appropriate, Ward Councillors, outside organisations and interested parties were consulted on individual reports considered by the Leader and reports to Cabinet.

Where decisions were deemed urgent, the agreement of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or, in his absence, the Mayor was obtained that the decision would not be subject to the call-in procedure.

Financial Implications/Legal Implications/Equalities Impact/ Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 considerations

As per the individual reports to the Leader, Portfolio Holder and Cabinet.

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact: Frouke de Vries, Democratic Services Officer, on 020 8424 1785.

The Council's Constitution, the Cabinet Minutes as well as all public reports and decision notices are available through the 'Council and Democracy' Page at www.harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Council's Constitution/Individual PH Reports and Decision Notices/Cabinet Minutes

The officer reports considered by the Portfolio Holder / Leader in respect of the items listed below are exempt from inspection by the public on the grounds that they contain confidential information under the specified paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972.

Mezzanine Floor,
Wealdstone Centre
(PHD 048/07)

Exempt - The report is exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a to the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Approval to proceed
with an appeal against
the decision in I v
Harrow
(PHD 060/07)

Exempt - The report is exempt from publication under paragraph 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

APPENDIX A

Urgent Decisions

The following urgent decisions have been taken since Council on 18 October 2007: -

Subject	Decision Maker (Portfolio Holder/Leader/Cabinet)	Reason for Urgency
Proposals for Full Business Cases under the Business Transformation Partnership (PHD 035/07)	Leader	To enable the Council to progress to the Full Business Case stage by the end of October 2007.
Local Development Scheme (LDS) Progress Report (PHD 036/07) Key decision	Leader (5 October 2007 – Portfolio Holder Decision meeting)	To ensure changes are adopted prior to being forwarded to the Secretary of State for final approval.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for RAF Bentley Priory (PHD 037A/07)	Leader	Planning applications for the redevelopment of the RAF station were expected in early 2008. Pre- application discussions would be held and it was imperative that adopted guidance was in place to inform this process.
Demolition of Vaughan Day Centre (PHD 042/07)	Leader	a) To facilitate the construction of the new Neighbourhood Resource Centre by giving the contractors vacant possession of the Vaughan site. The programme timetable required that the building be demolished by 31 December 2007. This could only be achieved if demolition contractors were commissioned by the beginning of November 2007.

		<p>b) To enable part of the site allocated for residential development to be marketed at the earliest opportunity, providing potential for a capital receipt in the 2007/08 financial year.</p> <p>c) Delay in initiating work on the Vaughan site would cause concern to service users and staff who were asked to vacate the Vaughan Day Centre because of the need to progress work on the site.</p>
<p>Direct Payments – Change to rates-structure and up-lift of payment (PHD 044/07) Key decisions</p>	<p>Leader (5 November 2007 – Portfolio Holder Decision meeting) Special Urgency</p>	<p>To enable the Council to fulfil its commitments to the Commission for Social Care Inspection and clients to improve the uptake of Direct Payments. There was a need to deliver on this urgently in order to improve on both client satisfaction and performance indicators.</p>
<p>Mezzanine Floor, Wealdstone Centre (PHD 048/07)</p>	<p>Leader</p>	<p>The Landlord required the negotiated transaction to be contracted by the end of November 2007.</p>
<p>Approval to proceed with an appeal against the decision in I v Harrow (PHD 060/07)</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Housing</p>	<p>To enable officers to start preparing for the appeal before the Christmas break.</p>