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| Cabinet/Committee: | Council |
| Date: | 30 October 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 David Ashton – Leader and Strategy, Partnership and Finance |
| 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 since the last meeting of the Council.

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 meeting held on 10 July 2008.

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 twice since the agenda despatch for the Council meeting held on 10 July 2008. These were the key decisions relating to the Street Lighting PFI and the Oxhey Lane Flood Defence Works, Oxhey Lane Farm. These decisions were taken by the Leader of the Council at the Portfolio Holder Decision meetings held on 4 and 29 July 2008 respectively.

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: Miriam Wearing, Senior Democratic Services Officer, on 020 8424 1542. 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 Portfolio Holder Reports and Decision Notices/Cabinet Minutes

The officer report considered by the Leader/Cabinet in respect of the item listed below was exempt from inspection by the public on the grounds that it contained confidential information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)the specified paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972.

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| 1 | Street Lighting PFI (Portfolio Holder Decision Meeting 4 July 2008) Key decision) |
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APPENDIX A

Urgent Decisions

The following urgent decisions have been taken since Council on 21 February 2008.

| Subject | Decision Maker (Portfolio Holder/Leader/ Cabinet) | Reason for Urgency |
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| Street Lighting PFI (Portfolio Holder Decision Meeting 4 July 2008) Key decision | Leader | In order to comply with DfT's timetable for submission to the Treasury Programme Review Group in September 2008. Delay would result in increased costs to the Council in respect of procurement costs to the Council in respect of procurement costs in respect of external advisors and also the annual Affordability Gap that the Council must meet. It may also jeopardise the approval of the scheme. |
| Development of the Cedars Hall site, Uxbridge Road, Harrow (PHD 022-08) | Leader | In view of the deadline for submission by Weald Tenants and Residents Association of a detailed business plan for the development and management of the Cedars Hall site as a Community Hall and agreeing the proposed lease terms of 31 July 2008. |
| Oxhey Lane Flood Defence Works, Oxhey Lane Farm (Portfolio Holder Decision Meeting 29 July 2008) | Leader | Imminent proposed commencement of site works in order to remain on programme. |
| Change of Membership of the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel (PHD 029-08) | Leader | To expedite the smooth running and effectiveness of the Panel as the next meeting of the Panel is prior to Cabinet scheduled for 18 September 2008. |
| Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013 | Cabinet 17 July 2008 | The deadline for the submission of the new Homelessness Strategy was 31 July 2008. If the call in procedure had been invoked, this deadline would not have been met. The Council would then be subject to legal challenge for not having a current homelessness strategy in place as required by the Homelessness Act 2002. |
| Changes in Panel and Advisory Committee Memberships | Cabinet – 18 September 2008 | To enable the changes in membership to be implemented with immediate effect. |