



The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”) (Regulation 9)

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF A DECISION THAT HAS NOT BEEN INCLUDED ON THE FORWARD PLAN AS SUCH

The reason why this decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred is that East Suffolk Council needs to consider a report regarding the proposal of a scheme for awarding Discretionary Rate Reliefs in 2021/22 to businesses in respect of the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF).

It will be necessary for Cabinet, at its meeting on 1 February 2022, to consider a key decision that has not been included in the Forward Plan (FP). This item was included in the Forward Plan for a number of months pending the necessary legislation to be passed and Government guidance to be produced, but was removed by mistake in the most recent Plan. For the reasons of urgency outlined below, it was intended to consider it at the Full Council meeting on 26 January instead, but this has not been possible. Guidance to enable this scheme to be produced was received just before Christmas.

It is considered to be urgent that Cabinet considers this report as soon as is practical because of the need to ensure that businesses impacted by Covid-19 receive rate relief support in the current financial year, 2021/22, as quickly as possible; this has been communicated in a letter from the Secretary of State dated 22 December 2021. The letter states that “local authorities must devise and approve their own local relief schemes. In normal times this is a process which can take weeks but for some businesses that may be too late. I would like councils to consider what steps you can take to streamline the approval and delivery process for this relief urgently.”

In the light of the above we wish to expedite the Cabinet process and avoid having to delay a decision until the March Cabinet. We therefore seek an exemption to the Regulation 5 requirement in respect of the 1 February 2022 Cabinet meeting.

It is deemed important that Cabinet considers this decision as soon as possible.

Regulation 10 of the Regulations (General Exception) allows for a key decision to be made if it is impracticable for notice of the intention to take a key decision under Regulation 9 to be given 28 clear days in advance of the taking of the decision.

Regulation 10 sets out the actions required to be taken in those circumstances which includes setting out the reasons for General Exception.

This Notice has not provided the relevant 28 days. However, in accordance with Regulation 5(6) of the Regulations where the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee considers that there is urgency which dictates that this decision is urgent and cannot be reasonably deferred to allow compliance with Regulation 5 the decision may still be taken.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee has been notified that the making of the decision detailed below is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred and has agreed for it to proceed. The reason for this is as set out above.

Karen Cook
Democratic Services Manager
20 January 2022