



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

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

The reason why the decision cannot reasonably be deferred, is that East Suffolk Council needs to consider its interim plans for Local Government Reorganisation at the earliest opportunity due to the Government deadline of 21 March 2025 for the submission of interim proposals.

In accordance with the General Provisions (Paragraph 10) of the Local Authorities (Executives Arrangements (Meetings and Access to Information) England) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations), an exempt decision, that has not been included on the Forward Plan, can still be taken provided that:

- a) It is impractical to defer the decision until it has been included on the next Forward Plan.
- b) The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been informed.
- c) The Proper Officer has made available to the public copies of the notice given to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the offices of the Council and its website.
- d) At least five clear days have elapsed since the Proper Officer complied with b) and c) above.

Where the date by which a meeting must be held makes compliance with this regulation impracticable, the meeting may only be held in private where the decision-making body has obtained agreement from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred. This is also reflected in the Access to Information Rules (ATIR) which form part of the Council’s Constitution.

As soon as reasonably practicable after the decision-making body has obtained agreement to hold a private meeting, it must make available at the offices of the local authority a notice setting out the reasons why the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred and publish that notice on the local authority’s website.

The Forward Plan contains details of all the matters likely to be the subject of Key Decisions and confidential and exempt decisions which will be taken by the Cabinet. The Forward Plan is updated on a monthly basis or as required, ensuring that all Key Decisions and confidential/exempt decision that are due to be taken are included in the Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is published at least 28 days before the start of the period covered by the Forward Plan.

The key decision which will be taken by the Cabinet at the Extraordinary meeting on 19 March 2025 relates to its interim plans for Local Government Reorganisation at the earliest opportunity due to the Government deadline of 21 March 2025 for the submission of interim proposals.

It is important that the Cabinet considers this decision prior to its scheduled meeting of 1 April 2025, as the

decision is an urgent one due to the Government deadline for submission of Local Authority interim plans regarding local government reorganisation by 21 March 2025.

Due to the nationally prescribed deadline for interim plans to be submitted, it is not possible to have this item published on the Forward Plan for 28 days prior to the decision being made.

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 10, paragraph (a), sub-paragraph (1), the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been notified that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred and has agreed for it to proceed.

Lorraine Fitch
Democratic Services Manager
21 February 2025