

This report will be made public on 21 November 2023



Report Number **A/23/16**

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 29 November 2023  
**Status:** Non- Executive Decision  
**Chief Executive:** Susan Priest  
**Responsible Officer:** Amandeep Khroud, Assistant Director – Governance, Law and Regulatory Services

**SUBJECT:** Report to Council on decisions made in accordance with the constitution's call-in and urgency rule

**SUMMARY:** The constitution provides that, when an urgent decision is made by the Cabinet or Cabinet Member, for which any delay in implementation, likely to be caused by the call-in process, would seriously prejudice the Council's or public interest, then the 'Call-in Rules of Procedure', Part 6.3, rules 1-6 do not apply. Decisions, taken as a matter of urgency, must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This report is recommended to Council, to note for information, in accordance with the constitution, Part 6.3, rule 7.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. To receive and note report A/23/16.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The constitution (paragraph 7, part 7.3, Call-In Rules of Procedure) provides that, when an urgent decision is made, for which any delay in implementation, likely to be caused by the call-in process, would seriously prejudice the Council's or public interest, then the call-in rules of procedure, Part 6.3, rules 1 to 6, do not apply. Decisions, taken as a matter of urgency, must be reported to the next available meeting of the council, together with the reasons for urgency.
- 1.2 On 18 October 2023, Cabinet considered report C/23/41, which outlines reforms to the local plan-making system that will be brought into force when the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill receives Royal Assent; these will be the most far-reaching reforms to the local plan-making system for 20 years. The Bill is expected to gain Royal Assent within the next few weeks. The current consultation, 'Consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms', sets out how the reforms will be put into practice. The consultation is being conducted by the Department for Levelling-up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and will close on 18 October 2023.

The Cabinet resolved:

1. That report C/23/41 be received and noted.
2. That the draft consultation responses set out in Appendix 1 for submission to DLUHC be approved.
3. To express the council's interest in becoming a 'front runner' authority through the consultation response (Appendix 1, Question 41).

It was necessary to take the decision under the constitution's 'Call in and Urgency' rule (Part 6.3, rule 7) for the reasons below:

Government launched a consultation on reforms to the local plan system on 25 July, to implement requirements in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which is about to receive Royal Assent. The consultation will close at 11:59pm on 18 October. Officers have been assessing the proposals and drafting proposed district council responses to the consultation. Given the wide-ranging nature of the reforms and the lead-in times for September Cabinet, there was insufficient time to take the item to September Cabinet.

## **2 LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS**

### **2.1 Legal Officer's comments (AK)**

There are no legal issues arising from this report.

### **2.2 Finance Officer's comments (RH)**

The financial implications of this report were addressed in the Cabinet reports to which this report relates.

### **2.3 Diversity and Equalities Implications (GE)**

There are no diversity and equality implications arising from this report.

## **3 CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting:

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The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None