

**EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER OR DELEGATED OFFICER
NOTICE OF DECISION**

TITLE OF DECISION: Procurement of Demolition Contractor

NAME OF DECISION TAKER:	MARK DAVIES
POSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY HELD:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
CONTACT OFFICER:	WILL GRIFFITH – CHIEF OFFICER – ENVIRONMENT & PLACE
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Details of Decision:

Pursuant to the urgency provisions contained within the Constitution to authorise the procurement of a demolition contractor as part of the major incident response at the THINK Skips site, Europa Way, Lancaster. (option 2 below)

Reasons for the decision:

Following the major incident at THINK Skips Ltd, Lancaster on Sunday 3rd December 2023, a multi agency response has been formed to manage the response to the fire. The incident is already affecting commercial and residential nearby uses, and poses continued imminent risk to the district in areas including health, environment, economic and social. This incident has the potential to have an impact for a prolonged period of time.

The Strategic Coordination Group, made up of a number of agencies including Fire, Police, City and Council Councils, DLUHC and UK Health Security Agency amongst others have been discussing options available, which are outlined as follows:

Option 1 – Support the monitoring of the ongoing fire and commit to a long term, protracted management of the site, given the compromised structural integrity of the building. There is risk of partial collapse of the building the longer the incident continues, raising the risk to operatives and wider community.

Option 2 – Work with demolition contractors to demolish ancillary building(s) immediately adjacent to the main building (all of which are within the site curtilage) of the site in order to create improved access to the buildings and internal waste composite, in order to proactively manage the fire with a view of coming to a swifter conclusion. This is the preferred option from members of the Strategic Coordination Group.

The Chief Executive is empowered to authorise any action reasonably necessary to protect the health, safety or welfare of individuals or the safety of property.

The urgent works associated with option 2 are capped at (£262k) and will come from the Council's reserves. The Leader, portfolio holder and s151 Officer have all been consulted and agree with this approach.

For the avoidance of doubt, the capped amount would only deliver a start to ancillary building demolition proceedings. Any further demolition works required will be subject to a further decision in accordance with governance requirements.

At this point in time the primary concern is to support the effective management of a major incident and the potential impact on the wider community. All avenues to recover costs will be pursued.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

IS THE DECISION URGENT

YES

THIS IS A LIVE MAJOR INCIDENT AND A DECISION TO COMMENCE MANAGED, PARTIAL DEMOLISHMENT OF THE SITE, IN ORDER TO MANAGE THE FIRE IS NEEDED. THIS IS THE ADVICE OF LANCASHIRE FIRE & RESCUE.

I can confirm that this decision is urgent as any delay likely to be caused by the Call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests and therefore is not subject to Call-in. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been consulted. I hereby agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable, in all the circumstances, and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.

Chief Executive

SIGNATURE OF DECISION TAKER: Mark Davies

DATE: 6/12/23

REF NO. UB135

DATE DECISION TAKEN: 6/12/23

IMPLEMENTATION DATE (publication day + 5 working days):

DATE DECISION PUBLISHED: 6/12/23

Immediate – call-in waived