

CABINET

Urgent Business Report 16 January 2024

Report of Chief Officer Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To advise Members of actions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.				
Key Decision		Non-Key Decision		Referral from Officers
				X
This report is public				

RECOMMENDATION

(1) That the actions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, in respect of the following, be noted:

- Procurement of Demolition Contractor (UB135 dated 6/12/23 refers)
- Continued financing of Demolition Contractor for major incident (UB 136 dated 15/12/23 refers)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Following the major incident at THINK Skips Ltd, Lancaster on 3 December 2023, a multi agency response was formed to manage the response to the fire. The main partners being Lancashire Fire and Rescue, Environment Agency, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire City Council, Lancashire Police, and the UK Health and Security Agency.
- 1.2 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 and in this capacity took two Urgent Decisions.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 The first Urgent Decision was taken on 6 December 2023 (UB135 refers) and was to:

“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.”

- 2.2 These Urgent Works were capped at £262K. The reason for the urgency being that this was a live major incident and a decision to commence managed, partial demolition of the site in order to manage the fire was needed. Full details of the decision (UB135) are appended to this report.
- 2.3 The Chief Executive took a second Urgent Business Decision on 15 December 2023 when it was apparent that continued urgent works and additional financial contribution was required In order to reduce the significant economic, social and environmental impact of the major incident.

“Pursuant to the urgency provisions contained within the Constitution to authorise the continued procurement of a demolition contractor as part of the major incident response at the THINK Skips site, Europa Way, Lancaster.”

- 2.4 The continued urgent works required an additional financial contribution of up to £650K. Full details of the decision (UB136) are appended to the report.

3.0 Details of Consultation

The Leader, portfolio holder and s151 Officer were consulted and agreed with the approach. The Chief Executive consulted with the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny to waive the call-in period in relation to both of these urgent decisions and the Chief Executive provided a Member Briefing via Teams on the 11 December 2023 with regard to the major incident and actions that were being taken.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Approval was given to the above actions, which are reported to this meeting in accordance with the City Council’s Constitution, Delegation to the Chief Executive – Matters of Urgency.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

As set out in the Urgent Decision Notices UB135 & UB136

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
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(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

As set out in the Urgent Decision Notices UB135 & UB136

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As set out in the Urgent Decision Notices UB135 & UB136

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As set out in the Urgent Decision Notices UB135 & UB136

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

As set out in the Urgent Decision Notices UB135 & UB136

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

In accordance with the Council's Constitutional requirements the s151 Officer has been consulted and agrees with the approach outlined in the report .

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

This report is in the name of the Monitoring Officer.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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