

# COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

## URGENT BUSINESS DECISION: Response to Technical Consultation Increasing Planning Fees and Performance

1 June 2023

### Report of Senior Manager, Democratic Support and Elections

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report is for information, to notify the committee of an urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of Council Business Committee in respect of a consultation response.

**This report is public.**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report notifying Committee Members of an urgent business decision taken between meetings is noted.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The report is provided in accordance with the requirements of the Councils Constitution which provides that any urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of a Committee be reported to the next meeting of that Committee.

#### 2.0 Decision/ Action Taken

- 2.1 On 3 April 2023 the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of Council Business Committee considered a consultation response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities consultation "Stronger performance of local planning authorities supported through an increase in planning fees". This was done in accordance with the Constitution (see below).

**Matters of Urgency (delegation to the Chief Executive)  
(Extract below from Part 2, Section 7 of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers)**

*Where it is necessary for any function of the Council or one of its committees to be discharged and it is impracticable or impossible, by reason of urgency for the matter to be considered by the Council or such committee, to take such action as they*

*consider appropriate, in consultation as far as is practicable with the Mayor and group leaders in respect of a Council function or the relevant committee Chair in respect of a matter within the Terms of reference of a Council Committee.*

*Where action is taken under the above, the Chief Executive shall submit a report to the next Cabinet, Council or Committee meeting recording the urgent circumstances which made the action necessary and detailing any action taken.*

2.2 The report and decision were published online [HERE](#)

2.3 In this instance, responding on behalf of the Council to consultations falls within the Terms of Reference of the Council Business Committee and the Chief Executive consulted with the Chair of the Committee, which at that time was Councillor Geoff Knight. The reason for urgency the deadline for the consultation response was 25 April 2023 and the next scheduled meeting of the Committee was not until June 2023.

### 3.0 Conclusion

3.1 This report is for information and is required by the Constitution to provide transparency regarding the decision-making process

<b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> <b>(Including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)</b>	
None identified.	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
None identified.	
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
None identified.	
<b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>	
No comments, as per original report	
<b>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>	
No comments, as per original report	
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Debbie Chambers <b>Telephone:</b> 01524 582057 <b>E-mail:</b> dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk <b>Ref:</b>
None	