

Report

Governance and Audit Committee

Part 1

Date: 27 May 2021

Item: 12

Subject **SO24/Waiving of Contract Sos: Quarterly report reviewing Cabinet/CM urgent decisions or waiving Contract Sos (Quarter 4, Jan to March)**

Purpose To inform Members of the use of Standing Order 24 or the Waiving of Contract Standing Orders in recent decisions taken by Cabinet and Cabinet Members.

Author Governance Team Leader

Ward General

Summary This report provides details of decisions on the use of Standing Order 24 (decisions taken urgently) or the Waiving of Contract Standing Orders for the above period.

In consideration of this report, Members are reminded that they are not questioning the merits of the decisions taken but are focussing on why decisions were taken as urgent or why contract standing orders needed to be waived.

Proposal **The Committee is asked to consider whether the reasons for the urgency/waiving of contract standing orders are properly reflected in the documentation supporting each decision. Members may wish to invite Cabinet Members to attend a meeting of the Committee should they consider this not to be the case.**

Action by Audit Committee

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Law & Regulation
- Head of Finance
- Chief Internal Auditor

Background

Details of the decisions taken by Cabinet/Cabinet Members during the above period are set out in the table below, together with a commentary from the Chief Internal Auditor. Copies of the report giving rise to the decision are attached.

In this section you must set out all necessary information to allow Councillors to take an informed decision. You will need to put forward the case to support your proposals.

Financial Summary

The cost implications of the decisions were set out in the original reports to the Cabinet Members. There are no cost implications of the Committee's consideration of this report.

Risks

Scrutiny of these matters by the Committee is an important means of ensuring that the reasons for the urgency or waiving of Contract Standing Orders were properly addressed in the decision making process and that decisions are transparent.

Options Available / Preferred Option and Why

The Committee is asked to consider whether the reasons for the urgency/waiving of contract standing orders are properly reflected in the documentation supporting each decision. Members may wish to invite Cabinet Members to attend a meeting of the Committee should they consider this not to be the case.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

See original reports attached.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

See original reports attached.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

See original reports attached.

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

See original reports attached.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

See original reports attached.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

See original reports attached.

Consultation

See original reports attached.

	Subject	Decision & Date	Reason for Urgency/Reason to waive Contract Standing Orders	Comments of Chief Internal Auditor
1	<p>Chair of Cabinet and Leader of the Council</p> <hr/> <p>National Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief: Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme 2021-22</p>	18 March 2021	<p>Business rate bills are soon to be issued for 2021-22 and payments will start becoming due in early April 2021. It is therefore vital that the business rate relief is applied as soon as possible to these businesses so that a correct bill can be issued for 2021-22, and to relieve the financial burden of making rate payments at a time when they are still facing restrictions on trading.</p>	<p>The report is not specific about the reason for the urgency for the decision to be made although in the Appendix it states the Welsh Government Minister made the relevant decision on the 3rd March 2021.</p> <p>Subsequently I have verified that NCC were made aware of this decision on the 16th March 2021, hence the justification for the urgent decision.</p>
2	<p>Chair of Cabinet and Leader of the Council</p> <hr/> <p>National Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief: Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme 2020-21 and 2021-22</p>	18 March 2021	<p>Business rate bills are soon to be issued for 2021-22 and payments will start becoming due in early April 2021. It is therefore vital that the business rate relief is applied as soon as possible to these businesses so that a correct bill can be issued for 2021-22, and to relieve the financial burden of making rate payments at a time when they are still facing restrictions on trading.</p> <p>In addition the lateness in the year of the Welsh Government issuing the scheme for 2020-21 means that it has to be adopted and applied to rate account before the end of financial year.</p>	<p>The report is not specific about the reason for the urgency for the decision to be made although in the Appendix it states the Welsh Government Minister made the relevant decision on the 3rd March 2021.</p> <p>Subsequently I have verified that NCC were made aware of this decision on the 16th March 2021, hence the justification for the urgent decision.</p>

Background Papers

The following documentation is provided as background to the above decisions:

Cabinet Member for

- Decision Schedule attached as **Appendix A**
- Report attached as **Appendix B**

Dated: 27 May 2021