

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF URGENT ITEM AND CALL IN EXEMPTION

**Access to Information Procedure Rule 15 – General Exception
Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16**

Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF) Bid

**To the Chairman of the Transport, Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny
Committee
and
the Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council**

The County Council's Constitution provides that if a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included on the Council's Forward Plan for the requisite period, the decision may still be taken if an urgency procedure is followed.

Under Access to Information Procedure Rule 15:

- 15.1 *If the publication of the intention to make a key decision is impracticable and a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included in the forward plan for the requisite period as set out in Rule 13.2, then subject to Rule 16 (special urgency), the decision may still be taken if:*
- (a) the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) has informed the Chairman of a relevant overview and scrutiny committee, or if there is no such person, each member of that committee by notice in writing, of the matter about which the decision is to be made;*
 - (b) the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) has made copies of that notice available to the public at the offices of the Council and on the Council's website; and*
 - (c) at least five clear days have elapsed following the day on which the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) complied with (a) and (b).*
- 15.2 *As soon as reasonably practicable after the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) has complied with (a) to (c) above, s/he must make available at the Council's offices a notice setting out the reasons why compliance with Rule 13.2 is impracticable and publish that notice on the Council's website.*

The County Council's Constitution further provides that where the call-in procedure would otherwise apply to an executive decision, it shall not apply where the decision being taken is urgent, if an urgency procedure is followed.

Under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16:

- (h) The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where the decision being taken by the Executive is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interest. The Chairman of the council must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman's consent shall be required. In the absence of both, the Head of Paid Service or his/her nominee's consent shall be required. Decisions taken as*

a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

It is anticipated that on 1 July 2022, the Executive Member for Open to Business will consider a report seeking to authorise the Corporate Director - Business & Environmental Services to submit a bid to the WCAF, and if successful, the Corporate Director for Strategic Resources to accept the Revenue funding up to £150,000 spread over years, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The funding would provide specialist support to increase the capacity of specialist skills within local authorities, enabling them to accelerate the delivery of tree planting and woodland creation commitments.

The intention to make this key decision has not been published on the Forward Plan for the requisite 28 clear day period.

This matter requires an urgent decision by Executive Member for Open to Business on 1 July 2022, and cannot reasonably be deferred, to enable the timely consideration and progress of this matter due to the short notice given by Forestry Commission for submission of bids and the imminent deadline for bid submissions. The Council therefore needs to progress this matter within a short timeframe, and as a consequence, the matter cannot be subject to the call in period. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16 enables matters to be determined on an urgency basis and be exempt from call-in, where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interest.

To the Chairman of the Transport, Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

In accordance with the General Exception provisions in Access to Information Procedure Rule 15, I am, therefore, informing you as the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it is intended that this matter be considered by the Executive Member for Open to Business on 1 July 2022 for the above reasons.

To the Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council:

In accordance with the provisions in Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16(h), I am seeking your agreement that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency (where any delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interest) and that the call-in procedure should therefore not apply to the decision. If you agree this item should be considered on 1 July 2022, will you please confirm by email as soon as possible.

BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

Dated: 24 June 2022

I agree, for the reasons stated in this notice, that the meeting and the making of this decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred and that this item should be considered on 1 July 2022.

Signed Cllr David Staveley

Date 24 June 2022

Chairman of the Transport, Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

I agree, for the reasons stated in this notice, that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances, to it being treated as a matter of urgency and exempt from call-in and that this item should be considered on 1 July 2022.

Signed Cllr Margaret Atkinson

Date 25 June 2022

Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council