

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF URGENT ITEM AND CALL IN EXEMPTION

**Access to Information Procedure Rule 15
Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16**

Approval to submit a bid to Innovate UK: Net Zero Living Fund

**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 the 21 February 2023 a report seeking approval to submit a bid to Innovate UK: Net Zero Living Fund – Fast Followers, and to delegate authority to the Corporate Directors of Business and Environmental Services and Strategic Resources to approve the final submission by 1st March 2023, will be considered by Executive Member for Open to Business.

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 21 February 2023, and cannot reasonably be deferred, to enable the timely consideration and progress of this matter. The fund was only announced on 18 January 2023., and in order to make a decision on whether to apply, attendance was required at a clarification webinar on 26 January 2023. The deadline for submissions is 1 March 2023.

The Council therefore needs to progress this matter within a short timeframe. As a consequence of the urgency of the timescales, 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 provisions in the 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 21 February 2023, and I am seeking your agreement that the meeting and the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred beyond this timeframe. If you agree, will you please confirm by email as soon as possible.

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 that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency and the call-in process not applying, and that this item should be considered on 21 February 2023, will you please confirm by email as soon as possible.

BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

7 February 2023

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 21 February 2023.

Signed Cllr David Ireton

Date 8 February 2023

Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council