

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF URGENT PRIVATE ITEM AND CALL IN EXEMPTION

**Access to Information Procedure Rules 4 and 16
Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16**

Border to Coast North Yorkshire LP – Update to Governance Documents

**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 16:

- 16.1 *Where the date by which a decision must be made makes compliance with Rule 15 (general exception) impracticable, then the decision can only be made if the decision maker (if an individual) or the Chairman of the body making the decision, obtains the written agreement of the Chairman of a relevant overview and scrutiny committee that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred. If there is no Chairman of a relevant overview and scrutiny committee, or if the Chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee is unable to act, then the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman will suffice.*
- 16.2 *As soon as reasonably practicable after the decision maker has obtained agreement under Rule 16.1 above, s/he must make available at the Council's offices a notice setting out the reasons why the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred and publish the notice on the Council's website.*

The County Council's Constitution also provides that, under Access to Information Procedure Rule 4, at least 28 clear days' notice must be given of a private meeting (or meeting, or part of a meeting, during which the public are excluded) and, at least five clear days before the meeting, a further notice must be given of the intention to hold the meeting in private. The Access to Information Procedure Rules further provide that these provisions shall not apply where the decision being taken is urgent, if an urgency procedure is followed:

- 4.5 *Where the date by which a meeting must be held makes compliance with Rules 4.3 and 4.4 impracticable, the meeting may only be held in private where the executive decision making body has obtained agreement that the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred from the chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee; or, if there is no such person, or if s/he is unable to act, the chairman of the Authority; or where there is no chairman of either, the vice-chairman of the Authority.*
- 4.6 *As soon as reasonably practicable after agreement is given under Rule 4.5 to hold a private meeting, the executive decision making body must give notice setting out the reasons why the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred by making the notice available at County Hall and at the venue for the meeting (if different) and publishing it 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 21 March 2023, the Shareholder Committee will consider a report seeking approval of the updated governance documents of Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Limited, and confirmation of who will be the shareholder representative from 1 April 2023.

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

The report on this matter is likely to contain exempt information as described in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The requisite notices of private meetings under Access to Information Procedure Rules 4.3 and 4.4 have not therefore been published.

The governance documents having been drafted and approved by all other shareholders and this matter now requires an urgent decision by the Shareholder Committee on 21 March 2023 and cannot reasonably be deferred, to enable the timely consideration and progress of this matter, as they must be signed prior to 31 March 2023. 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 provisions in the Access to Information Procedure Rules, 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 Shareholder Committee on 21 March 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, will you please so confirm in writing 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 March 2023, will you please confirm by email as soon as possible.

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

Dated: 10 March 2023

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 21 March 2023.

Signed Cllr David Staveley **Date** 13 March 2023
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 21 March 2023.

Signed Cllr David Ireton **Date** 13 March 2023
Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council