

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF URGENT ITEM

Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 – Special Urgency

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy: use of additional MOD properties –for Afghan ARAP families in Afghanistan and third countries

To the Chair of the Corporate & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The 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.

It is anticipated that on 26 September 2023, the Executive Member for Corporate Services will consider a report seeking approval to use additional MoD SFA properties in North Yorkshire to accommodate eligible ARAP individuals and their family members currently residing abroad, in response to an urgent request from the Home Office.

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

This matter requires an urgent decision by the Executive Member for Corporate Services on 26 September 2023 and cannot reasonably be deferred, to enable the timely consideration and progress of this matter because Afghan ARAP/ACRS households are at humanitarian risk in Afghanistan and third countries, and the bridging hotel accommodation has closed, meaning arrangements cannot be made for eligible families to come to the UK unless they have been given the offer of housing in the UK. MOD SFA properties offer an immediate solution to allow this to happen for some Afghan ARAP households.

In accordance with the provisions in the Access to Information Procedure Rules, I am, therefore, informing you as the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it is intended that this matter be considered by the Executive Member for Corporate Services on 26 September 2023, and I am seeking your agreement that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred beyond this timeframe. If you agree that the meeting and the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred, will you please so confirm in writing as soon as possible.

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

Dated: 25 September 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 26 September 2023.

Signed: Councillor Andrew Williams

Date: 25 September 2023

Chair of the Corporate & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee