

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF URGENT ITEM

Access to Information Procedure Rule 15 – General Exception

Consultation on Hovingham Church of England Primary Voluntary Controlled Primary School Closure Proposal

To the Chairman of the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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.*

It is anticipated that on 18 October 2022, the Executive Member for Education and Skills, will consider a report seeking approval to begin a consultation on a proposal to cease to maintain Hovingham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School from Easter 2023.

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

This matter requires a decision by Executive Member for Education and Skills, on 18 October 2022 and cannot reasonably be deferred, to enable the timely consideration and progress of this matter, as the School is in an unprecedented situation of having no pupils at all on roll from the start of this term. The Authority needs to move forward on a timetable that retains the possibility of closing the school at the end of the current financial year in order to avoid significant financial implications for the Council. It will also bring the earliest possible certainty to the school community and staff. If the decision were deferred, it would not be possible to complete the first stage of the required statutory consultation process by

Christmas, which in turn, would delay the completion of the process beyond the end of the financial year.

In accordance with the General Exception provisions in Access to Information Procedure Rule 15, I am, therefore, informing you as the Chairman of the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it is intended that this matter be considered by Executive Member for Education and Skills, on 18 October 2022.

BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

30 September 2022