



TITLE OF CONSULTATION: COVID-19 RESPONSE

OFFICER REQUESTING: LOUISE WOOD – HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS,
TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 A decision is required as to whether the Covid-19 response is agreed as a Part B item, given that decisions are now being made in line with the urgency powers set out in the Constitution. This allows the Chief Executive to take decisions in consultation with specified Elected Members.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) The Covid-19 response is agreed as a Part B item.
- (ii) Consultation is required with the Leader and the Chair of Council.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 The Chief Executive is now making decisions in line with the urgency powers available to her under the Council's Constitution, to ensure that the Council is able to respond effectively to the ongoing Covid-19 public health emergency and service delivery can continue with minimal risk to the public, Members and staff. It is recommended that the response is agreed as a Part B item to provide clarity and transparency with regard to the Council's response to the pandemic.

3.2 Policy and Resources supported the report at its meeting, prior to urgency powers being in place.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 Not making a decision now is not an option. Not having access to immediate funding will result in service delivery failure and could in the worst case scenario mean that we aren't able to support vulnerable people and communities.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The following implications have been identified:
a) Financial

The funds identified are available in the Council's Strategic Reserve. A financial record of any decisions taken will be made.

- b) Legal
The Council's Constitution authorises the Chief Executive to take decisions in cases of emergency and urgency.
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)
All relevant implications are considered, as decisions are made relating to the Council's response to the Covid-19 situation.

6.0 MONITORING OFFICER ADVICE

Consultation is required with the Leader and the Chair of Council.
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7.0 CONSULTATION RECORD

According to the Constitution, under urgency powers, decisions usually taken by the Council and its committees are taken by the CEO following consultation with the appropriate elected members.

The appropriate elected members are:

- The Leader of the Council
- The Chair of the appropriate committee, for matters relating to that specific committee¹
- Relevant Ward member(s), if any, for matters of particular relevance to that ward²

Name of consultee	Cllr Duncan – Leader
This is urgently required to support our citizens at this critical time. Further consultation on spending within the agreed budget should take place with members as appropriate. I have been able to discuss this with Michael Cleary (Chairman of Council), Steve Arnold (Deputy Leader of Council; Ryedale First Independent group leader) and Di Keal (Liberal Democrat group leader) who agreed with this approach.	
Date consultation completed	31-03-20

Name of consultee	Cllr Cleary – Chair of Council
The Chair of Council's role was to give advice on process, rather than substance, and he agreed that as this was an urgent item it needed to be dealt with now, rather than held over until Full Council could meet.	
Date consultation completed	31-03-20

8.0 DECISION

Decision of the CEO based on consultation	The recommendations are approved
Date	31-03-20

¹ "Chairman of the appropriate Committee" refers to committee specific matters and does not mean that all Committee Chairs will be consulted on everything

² "Relevant Ward Member(s), if any" refers to ward specific matters and does not mean that all Members will be consulted on everything