

Reference Number: 2020/CEO Emergency Powers/24

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DECISION RECORD

Re: Extension of the virtual meetings' regime to County Council and other committee meetings as required during the Covid-19 pandemic

This record is produced in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

This form should be used to record:

- **EXECUTIVE decisions (key or otherwise) taken by an individual Executive MEMBER; and**
- **EXECUTIVE decisions (key or otherwise) taken by an OFFICER (either alone or in consultation with an Executive Member)**
- **A non-Executive decision taken by an OFFICER which falls into one of the following descriptions:-**
 - (i) under a specific express authorisation; or**
 - (ii) under a general authorisation to officers to take such decisions and, the effect of the decision is to**
 - **grant a permission or licence;**
 - **affect the rights of an individual; or**
 - **award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects that relevant local government body's financial position.**

(One form per decision)

The following decision has been taken: -

That meetings of the full Council and such other committees as the Chief Executive Officer may from time to time and in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager think appropriate, be held virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic period until 7th May 2021 (the expiry of the current regulations permitting the holding of virtual committee meetings during the pandemic period).

By whom: Richard Flinton, Chief Executive Officer, under his emergency delegated powers.

On: 9 July 2020

Was this an executive decision?

YES/NO

If an executive decision, was it also a key decision?

YES/NO

Please note that this decision was treated under the Special Urgency procedure and call-in has been exempted from this decision by the Chairman of the County Council (under the blanket exemptions' notice dated 27 April 2020) under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16(h).

Reasons for decision: -

Under his delegated decision making powers in the Officers' Delegation Scheme in the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive Officer has power, in cases of emergency, to take any decision which could be taken by the Council, the Executive or a committee.

On 7 April 2020, the Chief Executive Officer agreed (Decision record 2020/CEO Emergency Powers/14), amongst other things, that subject to the successful adoption of a technological solution that enables the requirements laid out in the relevant regulations to be complied with, virtual meetings be introduced for the following committees (where the business either relates to the work being done by the Council in response to the Coronavirus pandemic or where a decision cannot be deferred for a compelling reason): Executive; Planning and Regulatory functions; Audit; and a sub-committee of the Pension Fund Committee. Only the Executive to meet as scheduled. The Planning and Regulatory Functions committee to meet as required to deal with urgent planning applications, Audit Committee would similarly only meet if required to make an urgent decision and Pension Fund Committee would form a sub-group to make decisions relating to changes in investment performance. All other formal, public committee meetings would be postponed until September 2020.

Given the success of the operation of the virtual formal meetings so far undertaken within the Council it is recommended that the virtual meetings' regime previously agreed by the Chief Executive Officer be extended so that meetings of the full Council and such other committees as the Chief Executive Officer may from time to time and in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager think appropriate, be held virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic period until 7th May 2021 (the expiry of the current regulations permitting the holding of virtual committee meetings during the pandemic period).

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected: -

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Conflicts of Interest

Please record below details of any conflict of interest declared by a Member or Officer regarding the decision and any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee or Monitoring Officer in respect of that conflict.

Conflict	Dispensation?

Background Papers

Please attach to this decision notice, for publication, the background papers that disclose any facts or matters on which this decision, or an important part of the decision, was based and which were relied on to a material extent in making the decision, but this does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10).

Signed
RICHARD FLINTON, Chief Executive Officer

Publication Date: 10 July 2020

Directorate – Central Services

Note 1 regarding Executive decisions only: This decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 clear working days after publication, unless any 6 members of the Council object to it and call it in by notice in writing (including e-mail) to The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services).

Note 2: non-executive and non-key executive decisions by Officers are not subject to call in.

Contact for further information: barry.khan@northyorks.gov.uk

Contact for copy of report considered: barry.khan@northyorks.gov.uk

To: The PA to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) - for onward circulation to:

All Members of the Council; All Management Board; All Management Board Secretaries; All Senior Managers; All Democratic Services Officers; All Corporate Development Officers; Senior Press Officer; Communications Officer