

<b>CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
<b>16 MARCH 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Farooq, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation	
Contact Officer(s):	Pippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager	Tel. 452460

**REVIEW OF URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN**

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>N/A</i>
<p>It is recommended that the Constitution and Ethics Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note, review and comment on the number of urgent decisions taken by Peterborough City Council in comparison with other Local Authorities</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to the Constitution and Ethics Committee following a request from members of the committee at a previous meeting.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the number of key decisions that have required the use of the Council's urgency procedures compared to those of other authorities. Members are asked to note the report and make any comments

2.2 This report is for the Constitution and Ethics Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.7.2.1

*Authority to oversee the operation of the Council's Constitution and authority to make recommendations to Full Council as to amendments and improvements to the Council's Constitution (including the codes and protocols) subject to the receipt and consideration of a report prepared by the Monitoring Officer, with the exception of those matters under the remit of the Executive.*

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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#### **4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 From January 2019 to January 2020 Peterborough City Council took 5 urgent decisions, all of which were reported to Full Council outlining the reasons for urgency in each case. As part of the Council's urgency procedure any time a decision needs to be taken it has to get the agreement of the relevant scrutiny committee chairperson and the Monitoring Officer.
- 4.2 There are occasions when a Council needs to take an urgent decision and this procedure allows the Council to do this in those instances. Without this procedure there might be times when the Council would have to pay financial penalties for not taking a decision.
- 4.3 Officers have researched a number of other local authorities to gain a better understanding of the number of urgent decisions that are taken. The findings are outlined in Appendix A.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation and research has taken place with other local authorities to ascertain the number of decisions that have been taken using urgency procedures.

#### **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the committee will note the report and decide whether it wishes to review this at a later date or as part of an annual report.

#### **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The committee are asked to note the contents of the report and attached appendix and make any comments. The report is being presented to committee at its request from the previous meeting.

#### **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 There are no alternative options considered. There are occasions whereby the authority will need to take urgent decisions.

#### **9. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no financial implication relating to the report.

##### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 There are no legal implications relating to the report.

##### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 There are no equalities implications relating to the report.

#### **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Council Standing Orders, Part x Section x

#### **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix A – Number of urgent decisions taken by other local authorities.