

Review of urgent decisions

[Award of Utility Contracts \(Gas, Electricity, Half Hourly \(HH\) and non-half hourly \(NHH\)\) to suppliers under the ESPO Contract](#)

This decision was made on an emergency basis due to the need to notify the supplier of the Council's intention to move to a green electricity tariff by 31 August 2020. The deadline for notification of moving to green energy is non moveable because of the need for the industry to buy products at certain points in the year in line with their contract. In this case the deadline is 31st August to enable the switch on 1st October 2020. In addition, the reason for the urgency now in terms of governance is due to delays in receiving final contract information, and seeking clarity on points of detail following the unexpected passing of a colleague who was previously overseeing this procurement exercise.

If we were to miss this deadline, the Council would remain on a brown electricity tariff. This would go against a Council declared 'top 20' actions for 2020/21. We have been informed by Richard Kay (Head of Sustainable Growth Strategy) that if the Council does not sign up to green energy supply where possible, there will be significant political (and possibly public) opposition given that Full Council had committed to the change in July 2019 and again in March 2020.'

[Transfer of Services from Vivacity to Peterborough Ltd and City College Peterborough](#)

This decision needs to follow special urgency procedures as outlined in the Councils Constitution because of the limited timescales to undertake the transfer of Leisure and Cultural services to the Council. Significant work has taken place since that date and the Report is the result of discussions with Vivacity and Partners to set out where these services will be delivered from the 17th September. The urgency of this decision is to ensure there is clarity with Members and the public on what is happening and what these interim arrangements are

[Agreement to lease 9 Three-bedroom houses at Paston Lane](#)

With the approval of the Chairman of Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee, special urgency procedures have been invoked to suspend the requirement to publish on the Forward Plan and the five day consideration period. These procedures have been invoked for the reasons set out below.

The timescale for approval is urgent as initially it was anticipated that the agreement would be concluded in July 2020. In reliance on this the developer has a contractor ready and waiting to start on site and any further delay is likely to prejudice that arrangement and the overall progress of the scheme.

[Covid-19 urgent and surge community swabbing service](#)

These procedures have been invoked in order to meet critical timescales for the urgent procurement of these services and to ensure that delegated authority for CCC to act as lead authority in the commissioning of the COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire is obtained. The local testing service shall provide a swift response that is accessible to the local population. There is synergy in the Council's working together given that the COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service shall be provided within the boundaries of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authority areas and there are clear efficiencies in having one service provision across the two Local authority areas. The service will need to be able to swab in any community setting or workplace as national and local guidance on COVID-19 changes with time and where potential outbreaks could occur

[Extended support to Businesses as a result of the Covid 19 Coronavirus](#)

These procedures have been invoked due to the potential for the scheme to become oversubscribed. The Council only have circa £1.47m of funding but potentially 2,000 to 3,000 possible applicants. This is why the Council have proposed a 2 week application process and then will distribute funds after this point when all the applicants have been validated.

[Increased street lighting dimming during Covid-19 restrictions](#)

Street light dimming was successfully introduced in Peterborough in January 2020. Following its introduction, no negative representations were made to the Council by both local stakeholders and residents. When "lockdown" was introduced on the 23rd March 2020 significant reductions in traffic flows and pedestrian movements were recorded, the reductions highlighted an opportunity to make additional savings with the introduction of more aggressive dimming regimes. The proposal was discussed with senior officers and Members prior to any formal communication where it was informally agreed additional dimming would be considered acceptable given the unprecedented circumstances.

The new dimming regimes (all lights dimmed by 40% from switch on to switch off), were proposed to be introduced in the summer months between May and July where hours of darkness are at their minimum with the caveat that they would remain in place or revert to January 2020 dimming regimes should pre lockdown traffic and pedestrian levels be reached pre or post July 2020.

As the formal proposal was only calculated for the initial three month period and not knowing how long the regime would be in place, permission was sought from Cllr Harper, Chairman for the Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to invoke the urgency procedure. Permission to do so allowed the Council to maximise the possible savings available.

[Request to re-implement city centre public spaces protection order](#)

The decision '[Request to re-implement city centre public spaces protection order](#)' was urgent due to time constraints created by the impact on services as a result of Covid-19. The City Centre PSPO was due to expire on 18 May 2020 and required re-implementation by 17th May 2020 at the very latest. The Council commenced preparations to extend the PSPO from early this year, with a view to have the extension implemented by 5 April 2020.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 public health crisis, the process was significantly delayed. If the 5 day consideration period was not waived, the earliest date the decision could have been implemented was 20 May 2020. This would have resulted in the extension of the previous order not taking place as a PSPO cannot be extended after it has expired.

This would have resulted in the Council having to re-commence the entire evidence gathering and consultation process in order to put in place a new PSPO, rather than an extension. This would have resulted in limited protection from Anti-Social behaviour in the city centre for months, leaving members of the public more vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and destroying all the work that has been put in place over the last 3 years to make the city centre a safer and cleaner place for the public.

It would have been disproportionate to commence the PSPO consultation process all over again when this issue was due to a time lapse of only three days caused by factors out of the Local Authorities control. The public, key interested parties and statutory consultees were consulted throughout February 2020 and indicated their support for an order to improve the safety and cleanliness of the city centre. Any further consultation in such a short period of time is most likely to result in the same response and thus making any further delay in implementing an order in the city centre seem unnecessary and disproportionate.

[Extended business rate reliefs and support to businesses as a result of the Covid-19 Coronavirus](#)

These procedures have been invoked to ensure that relief is provided to business in line with Government guidance to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 as soon as possible.

[Approval of contract award to adult social care providers](#)

These procedures have been invoked as it is imperative the recommendations are carried urgently. Failing to do so will result in services not being provide and members of the public being at risk of serious harm. These issues will manifest in the form of providers no longer providing their services to vulnerable people as a result of not being able to continue to sustain the significant increase in costs which have been a result of COVID-19.

We were responding to COVID, pressures around cost were mounting - there was national pressures around action to be taken and without an urgent decision we would have seen providers fail leaving vulnerable people at risk of being without care for a period of time.

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