

Report to: **Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development**

Date: **29 October 2020**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title: **Coronavirus (Covid-19) contingency arrangements**

Purpose: **To review temporary measures in relation to executive decisions agreed by the Leader of the Council in April 2020 as a result of Covid-19 disruption.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Leader is recommended to:**

- 1) agree to the continuation of the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to take any executive decision which she considers appropriate in response to Covid-19; and**
  - 2) review the delegation in July 2021 or as soon as practicable thereafter.**
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### **1. Background**

1.1 In April 2020 the Leader of the Council agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to take any executive decision which she considers appropriate in response to the outbreak of Covid-19 and that this delegation be reviewed in October 2020.

### **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 The current incidence of the Covid-19 virus both nationally and internationally continues to cause disruption to a range of business and social activity. There has been a need for preventative measures to be introduced nationally and in specific local areas to help contain the spread of the virus. This has included requirements for individuals or groups to self-isolate for periods of time, and more general restrictions on travel and gatherings. The measures in place are changing, sometimes rapidly, in response to the prevalence of the virus.

2.2 The situation continues to require decisions to be taken at short notice. Although arrangements are in place for Lead Member decisions to be taken virtually it may, in certain situations, not be possible or prudent to wait for the Lead Member to take the decisions at a formal meeting.

2.3 It is therefore proposed that the delegation previously agreed by the Leader be extended to July 2021 to ensure that provision continues to be in place to provide for essential urgent executive decisions to be taken in response to Covid-19.

2.4 It was recognised in April that this is a significant step and unprecedented and accordingly it was agreed to review the delegation in October. Where the Chief Executive exercises this delegation and the power exercised is not one currently set out in the scheme of delegation to officers then she will continue to report this decision to the Group Leaders as soon as practicable.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The Leader is recommended to agree to the continuation of the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to take any executive decision which she considers appropriate in

response to Covid-19 and that this delegation be reviewed in July 2021, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

**PHILIP BAKER**  
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LOCAL MEMBERS: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to the Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development – 2 April 2020