
REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS

Urgent Decision taken by: Shaun Scrutton (Managing Director) Agreed by: Cllr Mike Steptoe (Leader of the Council) and Cllr Cheryl Roe (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Governance)

1.1 Under the Council's Constitution, Part 3, Part C, rule 3.2, the Managing Director is the Emergency Controller for the District of Rochford. He can, with the agreement of the Leader of the Council and appropriate Executive Member (Portfolio Holder for Governance) and Chief Officer (Monitoring Officer), take any action that cannot be reasonably delayed until the next meeting of Council.

1.2 Decision

- The provisions outlined in the new Standing Orders above for remote meetings override the current Council rules of procedure, Committee and Sub-Committee procedure rules and corresponding paragraphs in Access to Information procedure rules in part 4 of the Council's Constitution for Council, Committee and Executive Meetings. These arrangements will be reviewed no later than 1 June 2020 by the Managing Director, with the agreement of the Leader of the Council and appropriate Executive Member (Portfolio Holder for Governance) and Chief Officer (Monitoring Officer).
- The remote meeting guidance note for Members is appended to be circulated to Members with the Agenda and reports for any remote meetings.
- That delegated authority be given to the Managing Director, with the agreement of the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Governance and the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution to reflect any further changes that are required as a direct result of Government legislation or guidance resulting from the current COVID-19 pandemic that cannot reasonably be delayed until the next meeting of Council.

Reason: The Council's Constitution makes no provision for remote meetings to be held, as set out in the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. It is therefore reasonable to make changes to the Constitution in order to provide for the conduct of any necessary Council business.

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