

# NOTICE OF A CASE OF SPECIAL URGENCY FOR THE MAKING OF A KEY DECISION<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Regulation 11(2) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

1. Where a decision maker intends to make a key decision,<sup>2</sup> that decision must not be made until at least 28 clear days public notice has been given<sup>3</sup>.
2. Where the publication of the intention to make a key decision is impracticable, that decision may only be made where the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been informed of the matter about which the decision is to be made, notice to the Chair has been made available for public inspection at the Council offices and published on the Council's website, and after 5 clear days have elapsed following the day on which notice to the Chair was made publicly available<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> A Key Decision is defined in legislation as an executive decision, which is likely:

- to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.
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<sup>3</sup> In accordance with Regulation 9(2) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with Regulation 10(1) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

3. Where the date by which a key decision must be made makes compliance with the requirements of paragraph 2 above impracticable the decision may only be made where the decision maker has obtained agreement from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred<sup>5</sup>.
4. **This notice<sup>6</sup> confirms that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the making of the key decision in relation to the business set out below is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred for the reasons set out below.**

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<sup>5</sup> In accordance with Regulation 11(1) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

<sup>6</sup> In accordance with Regulation 11(2) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Date of decision or period within which the decision is to be made	Matter in respect of which the decision is to be made	Short description	Decision maker	Cabinet Member & Lead Officer	List of documents to be submitted to the decision maker	If all or part of the report is exempt or confidential this will be stated below and reason given. If all the papers are publicly accessible this column will say public	Reasons why decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred
17 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Household Support Fund in Haringey	<p>The Government, through the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) has extended funding for the Household Support Fund, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member will be asked to:</p> <p>notes the Household Support Fund allocation from the government of £4,813,343.44 for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.</p> <p>approve the initial allocation of this funding to provide Free Schools Meal (FSM) Vouchers to households with</p>	Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services, In accordance with Part 3, Section E, paragraph 5.01 (a)	Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services  Assistant Director Resident Experience	Report of the Director of Environment and Resident Experience	Public	<p>The Household Support Fund is expected to support vulnerable households and families with children between the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The guidance and final allocation from the DWP was issued on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.</p> <p>The authorisation of spend was for 6 months and access to the remainder of the grant depended on data collection of households requiring access to this grant by analysing benefit data. The DWP collect this information and have been delayed in providing this information to the council. As a way</p>

		<p>children who are eligible for free school meals during the October half term 2023, and to allocate up to £258,000 funding to the Haringey Support Fund.</p> <p>notes that a further set of recommendations for spend of the remaining funding will come forward shortly, within the conditions set out by the guidance.</p> <p>Delegates authority to the Assistant Director Resident Experience in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services to amend this policy to give effect to changes in legislation, statutory or non-statutory guidance, or directives or instructions of a similar character issued by Government.</p> <p>Agrees that this policy is subject to the availability of government funding and will terminate on</p>					<p>forward, the report is seeking agreement for access to £258K to support the families in the Half term week that claim free school meals as this data is held. Further data is expected from the DWP in the next few weeks and this will inform the other areas of the spend and a further report will come forward in November for Cabinet Member signing. Although, the spend is below £500k, this is assigned as a cabinet signing as involves agreement of a council wide policy.</p> <p>The Council has identified that the cohort of low-income households with children, who are eligible to receive free school meals vouchers, will be particularly impacted by the challenges presented by the significantly rising cost of living. Without</p>
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		31st March 2024 unless terminated earlier.					<p>support over the school holiday period, children in these households will not be able to access free meals. There is a need, therefore, for an urgent decision to be taken on the recommendations contained in this report, in order to ensure that payments are made to support families with children, to continue to access Free School Meals vouchers during the October school holiday period.</p> <p>Given the need to have necessary plans in place before the half term from October 23rd 2023 to ensure the effective delivery of the support in the form of vouchers to those eligible for Free School Meals through Schools in the borough, and the need to ensure continuity of support through the Haringey Support Fund, it is not practicable to comply with the 28-day notice requirement in Part Four, Section D, Rule 13 or the 5-day notice requirement in Part</p>
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							Four, Section D, Rule 4, or the General Exception procedure at Part Four, Section D, or the Call-In Procedure Rules at Part Four, Section H.

*Please be advised that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny has further agreed that the call-in procedure shall not apply to this urgent decision. This is because the decision is urgent and any delay in implementation caused by the call-in procedure would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests due to the fact that any delay in decision making will impact on the ability to utilise available funding to support households with children. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the decision is both reasonable in all circumstances, and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency. This is in accordance with Part 4, Section H, and Paragraph 18 (a) and (b) of the Council Constitution.*

Fiona Alderman  
 Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)  
 Haringey Council

16 October 2023