

NOTICE of reasons for Urgency

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (“the Council”)

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”)

The Council intends to hold a public meeting of the Cabinet on 16 June 2020 at 7.30pm at which Part 1 and Part 2 reports not previously notified to the public will be considered in respect of Commercial Waste Collections Service Impacts of Covid 19

1. This Committee is deemed to be a relevant “decision-making body” under the Regulations.
2. It is likely that this meeting will be held in private or at this meeting, the Council will exclude members of the public and press from part of this meeting, for one or both of the following reasons:
 - (a) In view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public were present, it is likely that confidential information would be disclosed to them in breach of the obligation of confidence
 - (b) In view of the nature of the item of business to be transacted, if members of the public were present during the item, exempt information would be disclosed to them
3. Under Regulation 5, the Council is required to give notice of its intention to hold this meeting, or part of this meeting, in private, at least 28 clear days before the date of this meeting and to give a statement of reasons for this meeting, or part of this meeting, to be held in private.
4. Where the date by which a meeting must be held, makes compliance with this Regulation impracticable, the meeting may only be held in private where the agreement of the Council’s Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or if s/he is unable to act, the Chairman of the Council) has been obtained, for the reason that the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.
5. As soon as reasonably practicable after the agreement has been obtained, the Council must publish a notice setting out the reasons why the meeting was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred.
6. The Council has obtained the agreement of the Council’s Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to waive compliance with the Regulations for this meeting. The reasons why the meeting was considered urgent and could not reasonably be deferred are as follows:

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Covid 19 pandemic has led to several necessary changes to be implemented operationally as well as decisions being made to support residents and local businesses during these difficult times. A decision was made to delay the production of Q1 invoices for commercial waste and recycling collections and to contact businesses who may be experiencing hardship, this decision was made under delegated powers however the financial impacts of options regarding Q1 invoicing has, in part, been determined by the response from businesses. This information has only recently been available and consequently that combined with initial uncertainty regarding the scheduling of Cabinet meetings has meant this item has not met the requirements for notification to of a meeting held in private. This item cannot be delayed to the next meeting of Cabinet due to the uncertainty this creates for businesses in receiving invoices from the Council.

Melanie Stimpson
Proper Officer of the Council
22 May 2020