

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 March 2021 at 7.30pm at which Part 1 and Part 2 reports not previously notified to the public will be considered in respect of Contract Procurement Rules Waiver Referral

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 report refers to a Part 2 waiver (of rule 8) of the Council’s Contract Procurement Rules relating to the appointment of the specialist services in order to continue investigations and urgent due diligence into a high value property purchase, with a view that this would be referred to Full Council for consideration post-election. The potential purchase at this stage and related work is considered to be urgent and confidential exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and therefore exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 Schedule 12A into the Local Government Act 1972.

Melanie Stimpson
Proper Officer of the Council
Date: 3 March 2021