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## **Report of Urgent Action: Regulation 19**

- 1** Under regulation 19 of the The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 the County Council is required to receive a report from the Leader on any decisions taken under regulation 11. These are key decisions which were not in the Forward Plan and which needed to be taken with less than five clear days' notice. Such urgent decisions can only be taken with the agreement of the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman or, in his or her absence, the Chairman of the County Council. Key decisions taken with less than five clear days' notice which are in the Forward Plan are reported via the Executive Decision Database.
- 2** Such action is avoided wherever possible as it circumvents the normal mechanism for publication of decisions and ensuring that members have the opportunity to comment before decisions are taken.
- 3** However, on occasion this is not possible and the County Council is asked to note the following decision which has been taken by the Director of Law and Assurance with the agreement of the relevant decision-maker and Scrutiny Committee chairman.

## **Emergency Assistance Grant**

- 4** In response to the continuing COVID-19 situation, the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs has announced a Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies to support people who are struggling with food and essential supplies. The County Council's share of the grant is £737,319. The accompanying guidance states the receiving authority can use its discretion to support those most in need. It is proposed to introduce a simple countywide approach to ensure the funding supports those in need quickly.
- 5** The Director of Law & Assurance, with the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities and the Chairman of the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee, has therefore used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 to approve the allocations from the Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies to a number of voluntary sector organisations with the remaining funds from the grant being allocated to customers known to the County Council. The decision was urgent due to the need for the County Council to respond quickly to the continuing COVID-19 situation.
- 6** The County Council will work in line with government guidance and will apply the agreed criteria to support residents in hardship as a result of Covid-19 in partnership with borough and district councils and the voluntary sector. The Acting Director of Communities, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Support Services, has been authorised to rebalance the allocation according to greatest need in the event that the funds allocated prove insufficient.

**Paul Marshall**  
Leader

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