
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.
- 2** Such action is avoided wherever possible as it circumvents the normal mechanism for publication of decisions for ensuring that members have the opportunity to comment before decisions are taken.
- 3** However, on occasion this was not possible and the County Council is asked to note the following decisions which have been taken by the appropriate decision-maker, in consultation with the relevant members.

Award of Contingency Accommodation Contracts

- 4** The County Council had been supporting family groups in bridging (temporary) accommodation and hotels procured by the Home Office. The Home Office decided to no longer use hotels for this purpose after 31 August 2023.
- 5** The County Council has been responsible for the wrap-around support services for the families and needed to secure permanent accommodation. However, it was necessary to access temporary accommodation whilst the work to secure long term tenancies was undertaken.
- 6** The Assistant Director (Communities) with the agreement of the Director of Law and Assurance and the Chairman of the Communities, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Committee, approved the direct award of multiple short-term contracts to accommodation suppliers to provide a sufficient level of contingency accommodation for participants in the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and families evacuated from Afghanistan up to the end of August 2024. The value of the contracts will be no greater than £3m. The funding has been provided to the Council from central government.
- 7** Notice of the decision did not feature in the County Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions because delay would have prejudiced the need for the Council to comply with the new requirements of the Home Office. An urgent decision was required to ensure the availability of accommodation to meet the needs of those presenting for support in situations of urgency.

Leasing arrangements and appointment of a Housing Provider

- 8** Leasing arrangements were required to house a number of individuals and households for whom the Council has responsibilities. The funding, to cover the anticipated cost of lease and the procurement of a provider, has been provided to the Council from central government.
- 9** The Assistant Director (Communities), with the agreement of the Director of Law and Assurance and the Chairman of the Communities, Highways and Environment

Scrutiny Committee, has therefore approved the leasing arrangements and the procurement and award of a contract to a housing provider.

- 10** Notice of the decision did not feature in the County Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions because delay would have prejudiced the County Council's interests in needing to comply with the new requirements of the Home Office.

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Leader

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