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## **Report of Urgent Action**

- 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 Select 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 decisions which have been taken by the Director of Law and Assurance with the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure and the Chairman of the County Council and the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health and the Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee respectively.

### **Additional Roads Funding**

- 4** The Chancellor's Autumn Budget 2018 announced £420m towards additional roads funding. The Department for Transport (DfT) provided confirmation of an additional £6.083m capital funding for the County Council in November. The funding must be spent on highway network infrastructure maintenance before the end of March 2019.
- 5** Due to the challenging time constraint in which to spend the grant funding, the Director of Law and Assurance, used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 to approve the addition of the funding grant to the existing Local Highways Maintenance Block allocation in the 2018/19 Capital Programme. He also authorised the Director of Highways and Transport to approve the delivery of schemes and works, to be identified under the DfT Road Funds programme, through the existing Term Maintenance Contract.

### **Winter Pressure Funding**

- 6** In October the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced £240m funding for local authorities to spend on tackling winter pressures in the NHS. It was confirmed consequently that the County Council's share would be £3.3m. Whilst this allowed planning to begin, publication of the supporting grant determination did not occur until late November. This imposed a condition stipulating that these resources 'may be used only for the purposes of supporting the local health and social care system to manage demand pressures on the NHS between November 2018 and March 2019'.
- 7** The delay in receipt of the grant determination meant that the County Council would have been spending at risk by entering any contracts prior to then. The

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Director of Law and Assurance therefore used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 to:

- (1) Approve the allocation of £787,411 of the Winter Pressures Grant to be applied to a contract for services from Sussex Community Foundation Trust to deliver a programme of falls prevention work in 2018/19 provided standing orders on contracts are met; and
- (2) Authorise the Director of Public Health to oversee the delivery of the programme and approve the release of funds on the basis of agreed activity and performance in accordance with the settled services contract.

**Louise Goldsmith**

Leader

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