
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 decisions which have been taken by the appropriate decision-maker, in consultation with the relevant members.

Horsham Fire and Rescue Training Centre and Fire Station

- 4** Since the decision to proceed with the Horsham Fire and Rescue Training Centre and Fire station the total project cost has increased. Increases in construction and materials costs are being experienced nationally due to external and cumulative factors and this project has been additionally affected by other changes outside the Council's control. There has been no significant change in project specification or design.
- 5** The Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue, with agreement from the Director of Law and Assurance and the Chairman of the Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Committee, has therefore used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 to approve the allocation of funding for the delivery of the Horsham Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre and Fire Station Project.
- 6** The decision was urgent due to the need to confirm funding approval for the project to continue without additional delay or further cost increase.

Woodlands Meed College Rebuilding Project

- 7** The decision to rebuild Woodlands Meed College on its current site and with its existing capacity of 100 pupils, with a total budget of £20m was approved by the Cabinet in May 2020. ISG Construction Ltd were procured under the Southern Construction Framework (SCF) on a two-stage design and build route for the new build project. Following the end of RIBA Stage 4 design and the contractor's financial offer the total project cost increased to £21.66m, approximately £1.66m above the originally approved budget of £20m. For the project to proceed the budget needed to be increased and approval was sought to allocate additional funding for the rebuilding project.
- 8** The Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills, with agreement from the Director of Law and Assurance and the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee, has therefore used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 to approve the allocation of £1.66m additional funding, to be taken

from the Education Basic Need capital budget, to cover the funding gap and enable the project to rebuild Woodlands Meed College to proceed.

- 9** The decision was urgent as it was necessary to confirm approval for additional funding to enable the project to commence without additional delay or further cost increase.

Paul Marshall

Leader

Contact Officer: Helen Kenny, Head of Democratic Services, 033 022 22532, helen.kenny@westsussex.gov.uk