

CABINET MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, 31 July 2019

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO TAKE AN URGENT KEY DECISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 AND THE FOLLOWING RULE(S) IN THE FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION:-

Part 6.4, 'Cabinet Access to Information Procedure Rules' – Rule 12 'General Exception'

East Kent Housing - Compliance Update

In late May it emerged that there were serious issues of non-compliance with regards to East Kent Housing's management of gas safety across East Kent's council housing stock.

As a result, the Monitoring Officer will, in accordance with her statutory duty, report on this breach to Cabinet on 31 July, and the report has been shared with all Members of the Council.

This report sets out the context to these issues of non-compliance and how they are being addressed. The report also sets out the steps the East Kent councils are taking to ensure these issues of non-compliance do not occur again, including the need to consider alternative options for the future delivery of the management of council housing. It will, therefore, serve as the means by which the Council replies (as it is required to do) to the Monitoring Officer's report.

The report also sets out details of wider compliance issues identified within the Council's housing stock which have been identified through an East Kent Internal Audit Investigation of compliance across the housing stock managed by East Kent Housing in East Kent. East Kent Housing has also identified detailed significant areas of non-compliance in respect of the pumping and water treatment plants which it manages. East Kent Housing (EKH) are urgently preparing detailed action plans to ensure that all areas of non-compliance are addressed as a priority.

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT:

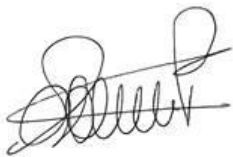
1. The decision on the matter outlined above cannot practically be deferred until the publicity requirements for key decisions can be met because:

The Council is seeking to progress an urgent review of the housing management and wider tenant services provided through East Kent Housing following significant non-compliance issues identified across the Council's housing stock managed by East Kent

Housing. The report also sets out details of the compliance issues and the action the Council has taken to date and intends to take going forward to ensure that the compliance issues are fully addressed as a priority.

Reasons for urgent decision:

- It is essential Councillors are fully informed on the non-compliance issues across the housing stock managed by East Kent Housing and the action taken by the Council.
 - It is imperative that the proposed review is completed as soon as possible.
 - The Council intends to work in partnership with the other four Council owners of East Kent Housing in order to complete the review.
2. The decision will therefore be taken after five clear working days have elapsed from the date of this notice and its publication; that is, at a meeting of the Cabinet on the date shown above.
 3. The Head of Paid Service has notified the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in writing, of the matter on which the decision is to be made.



Dr S Priest
Head of Paid Service
Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY

Date: 23 July 2019

A Key Decision is any decision:

- (a) Relating to the approval of or variation to the Council's Budget or Policy Framework which is reserved in the Council's Constitution for determination by full Council on a recommendation from Cabinet; or
- (b) Which involves the incurring of expenditure, or the making of savings, by the Council, which are anticipated to be in excess of £300,000 with the exception of items previously included in the relevant approved budget ; or
- (c) Where the Council is entering into a contractual obligation with a value in excess of £500,000; or
- (d) For the acquisition or disposal of land or property with a value of over £500,000; or
- (e) Which is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Council's area.

A decision will not be a key decision if it relates to expenditure, income or savings that:

- a) Has been approved previously by full Council; or
- b) Has been approved previously, following compliance with the key decision procedure; or
- a) Is in accordance with the current treasury management and investment policy of the Council.