

# Report

## Governance and Audit Committee

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### Part 1

**Date:** 11 November 2021

**Subject** **SO24/Waiving of Contract Sos: Quarterly report reviewing Cabinet/CM urgent decisions or waiving Contract Sos (Quarter 2, July to September)**

**Purpose** To inform Members of the use of Standing Order 24 or the Waiving of Contract Standing Orders in recent decisions taken by Cabinet and Cabinet Members.

**Author** Governance Team Leader

**Ward** General

**Summary** This report provides details of decisions on the use of Standing Order 24 (decisions taken urgently) or the Waiving of Contract Standing Orders for the above period.

In consideration of this report, Members are reminded that they are not questioning the merits of the decisions taken but are focussing on why decisions were taken as urgent or why contract standing orders needed to be waived.

**Proposal** **The Committee is asked to consider whether the reasons for the urgency/waiving of contract standing orders are properly reflected in the documentation supporting each decision. Members may wish to invite Cabinet Members to attend a meeting of the Committee should they consider this not to be the case.**

**Action by** Audit Committee

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Law & Regulation
- Head of Finance
- Chief Internal Auditor

## **Background**

Details of the decisions taken by Cabinet/Cabinet Members during the above period are set out in the table below, together with a commentary from the Chief Internal Auditor. Copies of the report giving rise to the decision are attached.

In this section you must set out all necessary information to allow Councillors to take an informed decision. You will need to put forward the case to support your proposals.

## **Financial Summary**

The cost implications of the decisions were set out in the original reports to the Cabinet Members. There are no cost implications of the Committee's consideration of this report.

## **Risks**

Scrutiny of these matters by the Committee is an important means of ensuring that the reasons for the urgency or waiving of Contract Standing Orders were properly addressed in the decision making process and that decisions are transparent.

## **Options Available / Preferred Option and Why**

The Committee is asked to consider whether the reasons for the urgency/waiving of contract standing orders are properly reflected in the documentation supporting each decision. Members may wish to invite Cabinet Members to attend a meeting of the Committee should they consider this not to be the case.

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

See original reports attached.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

See original reports attached.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

See original reports attached.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

See original reports attached.

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

See original reports attached.

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

See original reports attached.

## **Consultation**

See original reports attached.

	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision &amp; Date</b>	<b>Reason for Urgency/Reason to waive Contract Standing Orders</b>	<b>Comments of Chief Internal Auditor</b>
1	Post-16 Home to School Transport Costs	28 July 2021  The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills agreed that the current level of charges should be maintained for the 2021/22 academic year	Progressing this report has been delayed due to competing demands placed on officers across various service areas whilst responding to the ongoing demands of the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst the report is now complete and ready to progress, an urgent decision is considered appropriate given the relatively close proximity of the new academic year and the need to provide assurances to learners, parents / carers and schools around travel arrangements for Post-16 students from September 2021. An urgent decision will enable the Passenger Transport Team to receive and process applications immediately so that learners can receive confirmation of transport arrangements in good time before the start of the new academic year.	The justification for the urgent decision has been recorded within the report as "the delay in progressing it due to competing demands placed on officers across various service areas whilst responding to the ongoing demands of the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, an urgent decision is considered appropriate given the relative close proximity of the new academic year"  This is an annual report with the status quo being maintained.  .

## **Background Papers**

The following documentation is provided as background to the above decisions:

### **Cabinet Member for**

- Decision Schedule attached as **Appendix A**
- Report attached as **Appendix B**

Dated: 28 October 2021