

Report

Audit Committee

Part 1

Date: 26 May 2016

Subject **Standing Order 24 (Urgent Decisions) and Waiving of Contract Standing Orders: January to March 2016**

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

Author Senior Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Ward General

Summary This report provides details of decisions on the use of Standing Order 24 (decisions taken urgently) and 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.

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 attached reports.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

See attached reports

Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change

See attached reports.

Subject	Decision & Date	Reason for Urgency/Reason to waive Contract Standing Orders	Comments of Chief Internal Auditor
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, Newport	Cabinet Member for Education and Young People 24 February 2016	The reason for urgency is the short turnaround required to establish a new school in time for September 2016. The Council's agreed consultation process would create delays in the process of decision making before the final decision can be considered on whether to establish the school.	The justification for the urgent decision revolves around statutory requirements for legally establishing a school at a specific location. Further clarification was provided specifying specific timescales for a statutory consultation period plus a statutory notice period for the school to open in September 2016, both of which would have been missed if the normal consultation process had been followed. The reason for urgency is therefore justified.