

Report

Audit Committee

Part 1

Date: 1 December 2016

Subject **Standing Order 24 (Urgent Decisions) and Waiving of Contract Standing Orders: July to September 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 original reports.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

See original reports

Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change

See original reports.

Subject	Decision & Date	Reason for Urgency/Reason to waive Contract Standing Orders	Comments of Chief Internal Auditor
Capital Grant Funding for the Gypsy and Traveller Site	Cabinet Member for Adult and Housing Services 5 September 2016	Welsh Government have for the first time invited in year bids from Local Authorities for the Gypsy and Traveller sites capital grant, this opportunity is only available for local authorities who have a proposed site with planning consent. The deadline for applications is Monday 5 th September at 11am. Therefore in order to achieve the required timescale it has not been possible to go through the Council's agreed consultation process and therefore not subject to the Council's call in procedures.	Although the report states the reason for urgency is an in year round of bids offered by Welsh Government (WG) for additional funding, and that the deadline was 5th September 2016, it does not include a timeline of events leading up to that deadline. However, further enquires with the officers involved have identified the timing of events: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 12-7-16 – email from WG notifying a round of second bids with timescales being 12-7-16 to 31-8-16.- 26-8-16 – email from WG extending

			<p>the deadline to 5-9-16.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2-9-16 – email from WG extending the deadline to 7-9-16. <p>Given that the timing of this would also have been during the Members’ summer recess, it would have been reasonable to apply Standing Order 24 – Urgent Decision.</p>
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The following documentation is provided as background to the above decisions:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services & Housing Decision Schedule and report – 5 Sep 2016 (Attached)