

City Council

Urgent Decisions to be reported



Date of meeting: 21 November 2022

Title of Report: **Urgent Decisions**

Lead Member: Councillor Richard Bingley

Lead Strategic Director: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)

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Your Reference: UD 02 22/23

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

As set out in section 4.5 of Part C and section 14 of Part F of the Constitution, urgent decisions are required to be reported to the next ordinary Council meeting after they were taken. This report sets out the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of Council on 21 March 2022. Copies of the decisions are provided as appendices.

Recommendations and Reasons

Council is requested to note the following decisions taken in line with due process:

- Bereavement Infrastructure Project – Main Contract Award (Officer Decision 22/07/2022)**

Reason for urgency: The contract price provided by Kiers is only valid until the 17 June 2022. By which point prices quoted with the contract package will have changed and will be required to be re-priced. This small time scale for valid prices is the current conditions faced by all contractors and is as a result of Covid, Brexit, the ongoing war in the Ukraine and other current market conditions such as the cost of living, fuel prices etc.
- Suspension of Domestic Garden Waste Collection (11/08/2022)**

Reason for urgency: To help reduce the Council's budget pressure for 2022/23. The urgency is to ensure we can give residents clear information on when the service will be ending. Also, as per section 7, if this decision is delayed it is likely that we will not have enough staff to provide the service thus resulting in failure to meet our service standards and increased missed collections.
- Acceptance of the Grant Award from the National Institute of Health Research for health inequalities research funding (28/09/2022)**

Reason for urgency: The decision must be made in order to accept the funding available before the 1 October 2022. The decision had been delayed in the hope that the full details of the funding could be disclosed.

- **Household Support Fund: Food Vouchers (05/10/2022)**

This decision comes under Regulation 32(2)c of the Public Contract regulations 2015 for extreme urgency. The reason for this is the extremely late confirmation of funding by the Government (September 23rd 2022). There is an urgent need to mobilise a company able to deliver food vouchers to Plymouth families for the October half term, which starts on 24th October 2022. This will require the company to make arrangements for the delivery of vouchers and for the Council to ensure that communications are in place with schools and families. It is important to have a single provider for all school holidays within this academic year to avoid disruption and confusion for schools and families.

- **Household Support Fund Round 3 (27/10/2022)**

This decision is urgent because of the late confirmation of funding by the Government (September 22nd 2022). There is an urgent need to approve and submit a delivery plan for the funding to the DWP by the 28th October 2022 and to ensure that communications are in place for the general public who are anticipating this funding being available

Alternative options considered and rejected

None. Urgent decisions are required to be reported to the next ordinary Council meeting after they were taken.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

- **Bereavement Infrastructure Project – Main Contract Award (Officer Decision 22/07/2022)**

The Council is committed to delivering quality public services and as part of that commitment the Bereavement Service seeks to ensure it provides high quality remembrance and cremation service fit for the future. The Bereavement Service delivers on the Corporate Plan values and priorities in the following ways:

- It is Democratic by engaging with the funeral industry and increasing community engagement opportunities through open days and events as well as strengthening work with local schools and charities.
- It is Responsible by caring about its impact on the customers and the funeral industry retaining the choice of funeral service locations.
- It is Fair by creating a variety of opportunities for remembrance across a range of locations and costs
- It demonstrates Plymouth City Council's is committed to being Collaborative by working with our partners in the funeral industry and developing stronger ties with local bereavement charities
- It is a Caring Council that reduces health inequality by providing a modern facility that is fit for purpose meeting the needs of the whole city with sensitivity to differing faith requirements
- The project supports economic growth as part of a Unlocking the City's Potential that benefits as many people as possible
- It will also supports Unlocking the City's Potential by investing in facilities that we can be proud to offer and become a destination of choice for remembrance
- A crematorium that is green and sustainable by providing modern cremators with the latest abatement technology that meets the current emissions requirements is key contribution to

- **Unlocking the City's Potential.** The service will also provide alternative memorialisation offers such as green burial, all of which will support a green, sustainable city that cares about the environment.

The Plymouth Plan sets out a single vision for the city to 2034 with a clearly stated ambition to grow Plymouth's population to 300,000 as well as new developments on our urban fringes such as Sherford Community, crematoria and burial capacity are recognised as a key infrastructure requirement for a growing city.

- **Suspension of Domestic Garden Waste Collection (11/08/2022)**

This decision links to our core value set out in the Corporate Plan that we are responsible and our commitment to provide value for money.

- **Acceptance of the Grant Award from the National Institute of Health Research for health inequalities research funding (28/09/2022)**

The Corporate Plan and Plymouth Plan are very clear on the need to tackle health inequalities and reduce the numbers of people who are living more of their shorter lives in ill health. This funding will support those aims.

- **Household Support Fund: Food Vouchers (05/10/2022)**

This proposal links to the Child Poverty agenda for the city and also A Bright Future 2021 – 26 in supporting children to stay safe and well, through the provision of adequate nutrition.

- **Household Support Fund Round 3 (27/10/2022)**

This proposal links to the Child Poverty agenda for the city and also A Bright Future 2021 – 26 in supporting children to stay safe and well, through the provision of adequate nutrition.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

- **Bereavement Infrastructure Project – Main Contract Award (Officer Decision 22/07/2022)**

This contract is for £21,463,474 which includes the already agreed total of £7,917,673 which is covered by approvals for enabling works packages and PCSA design fees. Costs related to this are to be met from the approved capital virement agreed at Cabinet on the 7 July 2022 for the new Crematorium facility.

- **Suspension of Domestic Garden Waste Collection (11/08/2022)**

On the basis that an urgent decision is made and collections are suspended after the 26th August then a total saving of £200k for the 2022/23 budget will be achieved. This will reduce by approximately £30k for each additional 2 week collection cycle we deliver, however as Agency staff are only required to provide 1 week of notice many are likely to leave the Council much sooner leaving us unable to fully resource the service leading to delays in collections.

- **Acceptance of the Grant Award from the National Institute of Health Research for health inequalities research funding (28/09/2022)**

There are no financial implications to the Council since this is a fully funded project.

- **Household Support Fund: Food Vouchers (05/10/2022)**

The funding for this contract is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. The total grant for the Council is £2,294,796.82, to cover the winter of 2022/23. £1m is estimated to be needed to provide food vouchers for families for the October half term, Christmas holidays, February half term and Easter holidays – a total of 6 weeks.

- **Household Support Fund Round 3 (27/10/2022)**

The funding for this contract is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. The total grant for the Council is £2,294,796.82, to cover the winter of 2022/23. £930,000 has already been allocated for food vouchers for FSM families for the school holidays:

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None arising from this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

None associated with this report

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Bereavement Infrastructure Project – Main Contract Award			X				
	Suspension of Domestic Garden Waste Collection							
	Acceptance of the Grant Award from the National Institute of Health Research for health inequalities research funding			X				
	Household Support Fund: Food Vouchers							
	Household Support Fund Round 3							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 09/11/2022											