

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Access to Information Procedure Rule 16
Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16**

NOTICE OF URGENT ITEM AND CALL IN EXEMPTION

**Re: Proposal for living allowance payment changes for eligible children under Leaving
Care Act 2000**

**To the Chairman of the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and
the Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council**

The County Council's Constitution provides that if a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included on the Council's Forward Plan for the requisite period, the decision may still be taken if an urgency procedure is followed.

Under Access to Information Procedure Rule 16:

- 16.1 *Where the date by which a decision must be made makes compliance with Rule 15 (general exception) impracticable, then the decision can only be made if the decision maker (if an individual) or the Chairman of the body making the decision, obtains the written agreement of the Chairman of a relevant overview and scrutiny committee that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred. If there is no Chairman of a relevant overview and scrutiny committee, or if the Chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee is unable to act, then the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman will suffice.*
- 16.2 *As soon as reasonably practicable after the decision maker has obtained agreement under Rule 16.1 above, s/he must make available at the Council's offices a notice setting out the reasons why the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred and publish the notice on the Council's website.*

The County Council's Constitution further provides that where the call-in procedure would otherwise apply to an executive decision, it shall not apply where the decision being taken is urgent, if an urgency procedure is followed.

Under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16:

- (h) The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where the decision being taken by the Executive is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interest. The Chairman of the council must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman's consent shall be required. In the absence of both, the Head of Paid Service or his/her nominee's consent shall be required. Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.*

It is anticipated that on 31 March 2020, the Chief Executive Officer will, under delegated emergency powers due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, consider whether the Council should revise its policy to increase the living allowance payment for eligible children under the Leaving Care Act 2000, temporarily for 1 year, in line with government changes, to take effect from the week commencing 6 April 2020.

This matter requires an urgent decision by the Chief Executive Officer on 31 March 2020 and cannot reasonably be deferred, to enable the timely consideration and implementation of this matter and to protect payments to relevant care leavers. As a consequence of the urgency of the timescales and the need for the changes to be implemented before 6 April 2020, the matter cannot be subject to the call in period. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16 enables matters to be determined on an urgency basis and be exempt from call-in, where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interest.

To the Chairman of the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: in accordance with the provisions in the Access to Information Procedure Rules, I am, therefore, informing you as the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, that it is intended that this matter be considered by the Chief Executive Officer on 31 March 2020 and I am seeking your agreement that the meeting and the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred beyond this timeframe. If you agree, will you please confirm by email as soon as possible.

To the Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council: in accordance with the provisions in Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16(h), I am seeking your agreement that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency (where any delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interest) and that the call-in procedure should therefore not apply to the decision. If you agree, will you please confirm by email as soon as possible.

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

Dated: 30 March 2020

I agree, for the reasons stated in this notice, that the meeting and the making of this decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred and that this item should be considered on 31 March 2020.

Signed County Councillor Janet Jefferson

Date 30 March 2020

Chairman of the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

I agree, for the reasons stated in this notice, that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances, to it being treated as a matter of urgency and exempt from call-in and that this item should be considered on 31 March 2020.

Signed County Councillor Jim Clark

Date 30 March 2020

Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council