

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 24 October 2023
Report Subject	Update regarding urgent item discussed at Cabinet 19 September 2023
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An urgent item was included on the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 19 September 2023.

Items marked as urgent are not subject to the call-in process, but do need to be reported to the next meeting of Council.

The report was marked as urgent as it would have prejudiced the Council's interests.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Council notes the reason for the Urgent item considered at Cabinet on 19 September 2023.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE URGENT ITEM DISCUSSED AT CABINET 19 SEPTEMBER 2023
1.01	<p>The Cabinet agenda for the meeting on 19 September 2023 was published on 13 September.</p> <p>On 18 September an item: <i>Procurement of Fleet Contract Extension</i> was added to the agenda which was then circulated to all Members. It was marked as 'Urgent'.</p>
1.02	<p>Within 2 working days of the Cabinet meetings, a 'decision sheet' is published. Decisions come into force on the expiry of 5 working days after the first publication of the decision, unless subject to the 'call-in' process.</p> <p>Any decision 'called in' would – provided it adheres to the process as set out in the Council's Constitution – be considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The exception to this is where an item is marked as urgent as in the case of the <i>Procurement of Fleet Contract Extension</i>.</p> <p>In such cases, the call-in process states</p> <p>"Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency."</p>
1.03	<p>A decision can be classed as urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.</p> <p>Flintshire County Council entered into a contract with Essential Fleet Services (which has since changed its name to Go Plant Fleet Services "GPFS") under the YPO framework. The contract commenced on 3 October 2016 for a duration of seven years with an initial term that expired on 2 October 2023. It included an option to extend for a further 7-year term. The Council's preferred option is to take this option and extend the contract.</p> <p>Council officers have been in discussion with GPFS for some time about extending the contract. Due to the length of the contract, there are number of terms that need to be updated. Those discussions to extend the contract have not been fully resolved due to the complexity of the extension and significant inflationary pressures influencing the market.</p> <p>Due to the challenges experienced in relation to complexities included within the new agreement – specifically the uncertainty around inflationary pressures – it was not possible to meet the deadline by which to agree a contract extension.</p> <p>With the initial contract end date approaching it was necessary to ensure continuity of services from the contractor beyond the renewal date. To do this a Deed of Variation needed to be signed and sealed by the Authority</p>

	and then a contractual payment for the period of the extension made. Due to the monetary value, this required approval at Cabinet for the extension to be in place – hence the urgency. Any delay to this would have left the authority without a contract, and frontline services would therefore have been compromised.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Not applicable.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Not applicable.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Not applicable.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Call-in Process from the Council's Constitution</p> <p>Contact Officer: Steven Goodrum, Democratic Services Manager Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: Steven.Goodrum@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	None.