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| <b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b> |  |
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| <b>Report of:</b> | Councillor L Young, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer) |
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| <b>Relevant Executive Member:</b> | n/a |
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| <b>Submitted to:</b> | Council |
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| <b>Date:</b> | 9 July 2025 |
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| <b>Title:</b> | Update on Urgent Decisions |
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| <b>Report for:</b> | Information |
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| <b>Status:</b> | Public |
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| <b>Council Plan priority:</b> | Delivering Best Value |
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| <b>Key decision:</b> | No |
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| <b>Why:</b> | Report is for information only |
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| <b>Subject to call in?</b> | No |
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| <b>Why:</b> | Not applicable – Council Report for information only |
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| <b>Proposed decision(s)</b>   |
| <p>That Council notes:</p> <p>the decisions that have been taken under urgency rules.</p> |

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| <b>Executive summary</b>   |
| <p>The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with regular updates with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.</p> |

# 1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

- 1.1 The report provides details of decisions that have been taken under the urgency rules.

## 1.2

| <b>Our ambitions</b>                   | <b>Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims</b>  |
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| <b>A successful and ambitious town</b> | In specific circumstances, it is necessary to make urgent decisions to facilitate the actions required to achieve our ambitions. To ensure openness and transparency, these decisions are documented and reported to the Council. |
| <b>A healthy Place</b>                 |   |
| <b>Safe and resilient communities</b>  |   |
| <b>Delivering best value</b>           | This report will contribute towards the Council Plan ambition to deliver best value by ensuring robust and effective corporate governance.  |

## 2. Recommendation

## 2.1 That Council notes:

the decisions that have been taken under urgency rules.

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

## 3.1 The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.

## 4. Background and relevant information

## 4.1 Urgent Decisions

An urgent decision is where the required statutory notice of the proposed decision can be given but due to urgent deadlines for implementing those decisions, the Scrutiny call-in procedure does not apply. Agreement is always sought from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board or relevant Scrutiny Panel to exempt the proposed decision from the call-in process. The decision then becomes a public record. The information is also available on the Modern Gov system or via the Council website. There have been two urgent decisions taken since the last report to Council on 27 November 2024.

## 4.2

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Date:</b>              | 14 May 2025   |
| <b>Decision Maker</b>     | Executive   |
| <b>Decision</b>           | Household Support Fund 2025/2026  |
| <b>Reason for Urgency</b> | The urgent decision was required as Central Government had only recently advised of a further round of the Household Support Fund (HSF). This funding had been due to end on 31 March 2025, the guidance on this was not provided until 19 March 2025, and the HSF delivery plan must be submitted to the DWP by the 30 May 2025, hence the short timescale for implementation. |

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|  | <p>Under paragraph 7.25.2 of the constitution, provision was made, under exceptional circumstances, for an urgent decision to be implemented immediately upon a decision being taken and a call-in is therefore not possible. If the HSF plan was subject to a valid call-in, the earliest date for this to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel would be beyond the deadline date of 30 May 2025. This would then have meant that the Council would be unable to access grant funding of £2,914,447.24 which was available to provide crisis support to vulnerable households in most need with the cost of essentials.</p> <p>The Council needed to confirm an approach and submit an approved delivery plan to the DWP by 30 May 2025 for awards to be made between 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.</p> <p>It was a key decision that impacted on two or more wards and would incur expenditure above £250,000.</p> <p>The minor amendments that may have been required would result in no changes to the threshold to services and support provided.</p> <p>Delegated authority was provided to the Director of Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance to make any modifications or minor revisions to the scheme and make decisions in respect of any remaining funds to ensure they were distributed in line with the guidance and within the defined timescales.</p> |
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| <b>Date:</b>              | 16 May 2025   |
| <b>Decision Maker</b>     | Executive   |
| <b>Decision</b>           | Consent to Adult Education Functions Order 2025   |
| <b>Reason for Urgency</b> | The urgent decision was required as the decision of Middlesbrough Council (as a constituent council of the Tees Valley Combined Authority) decision was required by the Department for Education by 16 May 2025 in order to meet Parliamentary deadlines for the submission of the necessary Statutory Instrument to enable the devolution. |

## **5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate**

5.1 Not applicable.

## **6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended**

6.1 Do Nothing: That an update on urgent decisions is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for details of any urgent decisions that have been taken and the reasons for urgency, to be reported to full Council.

## 7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

| Topic   | Impact  |
|---|---|
| Financial (including procurement and Social Value)                    | There are no financial implications or impact on any budgets or the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) arising from the content of this report.  |
| Legal   | The Constitution requires regular updates on urgent decisions that have been taken to be submitted to full Council for noting.  |
| Risk  | Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.<br><br>If updates on urgent decisions were not provided to Council, this would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution. |
| Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion      | The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.  |
| Reducing Poverty  | The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised.   |
| Climate Change / Environmental  | The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised.   |
| Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers | The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised.   |
| Data Protection   | The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised.   |

## Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

| Action             | Responsible Officer | Deadline |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------|
| No action required |                     |          |

## Appendices

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## Background papers

| Body                         | Report title  | Date        |
|------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Executive                    | Agenda Item 4 - Household Support Fund 2025/2026                | 14 May 2025 |
| Executive Member – The Mayor | Agenda Item 2 - Consent to Adult Education Functions Order 2025 | 16 May 2025 |

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