

All necessary decisions in cases of emergency

Under paragraph 3.7.9 of the constitution the chief executive is authorised to take necessary decisions in cases of emergency.

‘All necessary decisions’ includes decisions to take such action as is necessary within the law to protect life, health, safety, the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the county, its communities and individuals living, working or visiting, and to preserve property belonging to the council or others;

An emergency is defined as any situation in which the chief executive believes that there is a risk of damage to property, a threat to the health or wellbeing of an individual, or that the interests of the council may be compromised.

In the chief executives scheme of delegation emergency decisions are delegated to the chief executive and directors. Before exercising this delegated authority any officer shall use their endeavours if, in their opinion, time or circumstances permit, to consult the Leader, or, in their absence, the appropriate cabinet member, and the chairman of the relevant scrutiny committee and in any case, inform them of their actions as soon as practicable.

There have been 2 emergencies since the last council meeting, the February floods and the coronavirus pandemic.

Paragraph 15 of the chief executive scheme of delegation, requires that all emergency decisions taken by officers are reported to full Council at the next meeting, including the extent to which it has been necessary to operate outside the contract and financial procedure rules. Each decision contains an assessment of risk including finance, legal and equality considerations.

Below is a schedule of all necessary decisions in cases of emergency taken after the publication of the agenda on 9 July for the meeting of the full Council on 17 July.

Covid-19 – July 2020

Development and delivery of emergency transport measures associated with the response to COVID -19 outbreak (Covid ATM response)

Decision Maker: Director of Economy and Place

Date of decision: 13/07/2020

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7003&LLL=0>,