

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 in 2020: the February floods and the coronavirus pandemic. At the ordinary meeting on 17 July, the annual meeting on 11 September and the ordinary meeting on 9 October schedules of emergency decisions taken in response to these emergencies were presented.

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 since the previous ordinary meeting of Council on 9 October 2020.

Covid-19 – July 2020

Record of officer decision - Outbreak Control measures – Covid-19

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Date of decision: 11/07/2020 (published – 21/10/2020)

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7285&LLL=0>,

Covid-19 – October 2020

Install temporary Covid 19 safety message signage in areas of heavily trafficked footways in Hereford City and the market towns of Leominster, Ross, Bromyard, Ledbury and Kington

Decision Maker: Director of Economy and Place

Date of decision: 23/10/2020

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7287&LLL=0>,

Decision to reimburse schools who fund the cost of up to £15 per week for free school meals during the October 2020 half term school holiday for one week and for the Christmas school holiday period for c.3,200 eligible children

Decision Maker: Director of Children and Families

Date of decision: 27/10/2020

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7295&LLL=0>,

Covid-19 – November 2020

Temporary closure of Herefordshire Archive & Records Centre (HARC), Hereford Museum & Art Gallery and Black & White House Museum

Decision Maker: Director of Economy and Place

Date of decision: 13/11/2020

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7343&LLL=0>,

To award time limited block purchase arrangements to adult care homes to meet additional residential Discharge to Assess (D2A) bed capacity requirements

Decision Maker: Director of Adults and Communities

Date of decision: 19/11/2020

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7364&LLL=0>,

Suspension of existing highways amenity licensing/pavement licensing (pavement café) activity in relation to the covid19 outbreak

Decision Maker: Director of Economy and Place

Date of decision: 26/11/2020

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7377&LLL=0>,

Suspension of non-essential Street Market activity in relation to the Covid - 19 outbreak

Decision Maker: Director of Economy and Place

Date of decision: 26/11/2020

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7372&LLL=0>,

Suspension of weddings and civil partnership ceremonies within Herefordshire due to new restrictions in relation to the covid-19 outbreak

Decision Maker: Director of Economy and Place

Date of decision: 27/11/2020

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7378&LLL=0>,

Covid-19 – December 2020

Decision to approve spending of the Covid 19 Winter Grant

Decision Maker: Chief finance officer

Date of decision: 01/12/2020

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7395&LLL=0>,