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Council

16 March, 2021

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Chief Executive

**Ward(s) affected:**

City wide

**Title:**

Exercise of Emergency Functions

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**Is this a key decision?**

N/A

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**Executive Summary:**

This report informs Council of a decision undertaken by the Chief Executive on 25 February, 2021 in accordance with the Constitution and following consultation with the Leader of the Council, Councillor G Duggins, to exercise emergency functions to secure additional funding made available by the Government in response to the current Covid - 19 pandemic to bring forward decarbonisation projects in the public sector to stimulate the country's economic recovery.

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Background papers:**

A copy of the signed decision has been published on the Council's website at:  
<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13299>

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

Yes – 16 March, 2021

## **Report title: Exercise of Emergency Functions**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 Part 2M of the City Council's Constitution provides for the Scheme of Functions delegated to Employees including the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.
- 1.2 Paragraph 3.8(a) of Part 2M of the Constitution enables the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader to make decisions required in an emergency.
- 1.3 During the current Covid -19 pandemic and since the Council meetings on 16 June, 8 September, and 20 October, 2020 where reports were submitted detailing decisions taken up to those date, the Chief Executive has been satisfied that the following decision has been required to be taken pursuant to the emergency provision to ensure continuity of the Council's business and the proper discharge of its functions and that, in all cases, the circumstances constituted an emergency:-
  - Acceptance of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Funding Amount up to the sum of £2,486,827 from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for the delivery of decarbonisation improvements to Coventry maintained schools.
- 1.4 The above decision, including the reason for the decision taken, has been published on the City Council's website.
- 1.5 If appropriate, a further report on matters arising from this decision will be considered by the relevant Council body.

### **2. Options considered**

- 2.1 The Chief Executive agreed that the circumstances constituted an emergency and was satisfied that the decision to be taken pursuant to this emergency provision was critical to the Council's ability to accelerate the transition to Net Zero Carbon by enabling projects that would otherwise not be able to take place.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the exercise of emergency functions was undertaken in consultation with the Leader of the Council, who confirmed his agreement to this course of action. The Leader of the Opposition was informed of the decision taken and all Members of the City Council were also notified.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 In light of the urgent nature of the matter detailed in paragraph 1.3 above, the decision was implemented immediately.

### **5. Comments from Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance**

#### **Financial implications**

Where decisions made involve the receipt of grants and making of expenditure, this has been identified in the decision summary. The City Council is maintaining detailed records

and forecasts of the financial impacts of responding to Covid-19 which alongside regular financial management activity will be the subject of future reports.

### Legal implications

Part 2M of the City Council's Constitution provides for the Scheme of Functions delegated to Employees, including to the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service. Paragraph 3.8 of Part 2M enables the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make decisions in an emergency.

### Report author(s):

#### Name and job title:

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#### Directorate:

Law and Governance

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Legal: Julie Newman	Director of Law and Governance	Law and Governance	26.02.21	26.02.21
Chief Executive: Martin Reeves	Chief Executive		26.02.21	26.02.21
Members: Councillor G Duggins	Leader of the Council		02.02.21	05.03.21

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[www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings)