In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Urgency Committee on the 27th April 2020 provided delegation to Chief Officers (in consultation with the relevant Committee Chairmen) to take decisions on business-critical matters normally reserved to theme committees. The Committee resolved that any and all such decisions taken, shall be reported back to the relevant Committee for post-decision scrutiny.
1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The Urgency Committee on the 27th April 2020, provided delegation to Chief Officers (in consultation with relevant Theme Committee Chairman) to take decisions within the remit of that Committee, that needed to be taken in response to the Coronavirus pandemic or other related matters. The Committee resolved that any and all such decisions taken, shall be reported back to the relevant Committee for post-decision scrutiny. This report is pursuant to that requirement.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 In response to the recommendations agreed by the Urgency Committee on the 27th April 2020.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 N/A.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 During the emergency period where the Council have moved to delivering critical services only and undertake additional responsibilities required by Government, the Council will aim to continue to deliver as many elements of the Corporate Plan (Barnet 2024) as possible.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 As outlined in the Delegated Powers Report attached as an appendix.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 As outlined in the Delegated Powers Report attached as an appendix.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 The council’s Constitution, Article 7 Committees, Forums, Working Groups and
Partnerships, sets out the functions of the Policy and Resources Committee:
(1) To be responsible for:
  o Strategic policy, finance and corporate risk management including recommending:
    Capital and Revenue Budget; Medium Term Financial Strategy; and Corporate Plan to Full Council
  o Finance including: Treasury management Local taxation; Insurance; Corporate procurement; Grants; Writing-off debt; Virements; Effective use of resources
  o Procurement Forward Plan
  o Local Plans (except for matters reserved to Full Council)
  o Information Technology
  o Strategic Partnerships
  o Customer Services and Resident Engagement
  o Emergency Planning

5.4.2 The Urgency Committee on the 27th April 2020 provided delegation to Chief Officers (in consultation with relevant Theme Committee Chairman) to take decisions within the remit of that Committee, that needed to be taken in response to the Coronavirus pandemic or other related matters.

5.4.3 Chef Officers making decisions using the delegations approved via the Urgency Committee report need to record all decisions via a Delegated Powers Report. Decisions should record that consultation has taken place with the relevant Chairman with a copy of the report published to the Council’s website and circulated to members of the relevant committee for information.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 Regularising emergency decisions taken and providing a delegation to officers to decide matters normally reserved to committees enables the business of the Council to continue whilst maintain the appropriate level of Member oversight and decision recording.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 In making these decisions officers have had regard to the public-sector equality duty. Decision makers should have due regard to the public-sector equality duty in making their decisions. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The equalities impact will be revisited on each of the proposals as they are developed. Consideration of the duties should precede the decision. It is important that decision makers have regard to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 As outlined in the Delegated Powers Report attached as an appendix.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 As outlined in the Delegated Powers Report attached as an appendix.

5.9 Insight
5.9.1 N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS