

Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Use of Urgency Provision.

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) – 21st January 2026.
Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) – 22nd January 2026.

Executive Portfolio: Executive Leader.

Report by: Elections and Democratic Services Manager.

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

The Cabinet took a decision at an Extraordinary Meeting on 24th November 2025, which was deemed to be urgent. The decision related to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The reason the decision was urgent was that a final proposal relating to LGR was required to be submitted to the Government by the 28th November 2025.

The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules state that the call-in procedure will not apply to urgent decisions. The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels have confirmed that the decision should be treated as urgent and the call-in procedure should be waived.

It is a requirement within the Council's Constitution that executive decisions taken as a matter of urgency be reported to Overview and Scrutiny.

The Panel is

RECOMMENDED

to note the contents of the report.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To notify the Panel of a decision taken under the urgency provisions contained in the Constitution.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Key Executive decisions should be recorded and published in the Notice of Key Executive Decisions 28 clear days before the matter is considered. Where the publication of the intention to make a key decision is impracticable, Rule 15 (General Exception) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Council's Constitution, may apply:

If a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included in the Notice, then...the decision may still be taken if:

- (a) at least five clear days' public notice of the decision to be taken is given at the Council's Offices and on the website; and
 - (b) the Head of Paid Service has given notice in writing to the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel, or if there is no such person, each member of that Panel in writing, by notice, of the matter to which the decision is to be made.
- 2.2 A decision was taken under these provisions at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Cabinet on 24th November 2025. The decision related to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
 - 2.3 Under Rule 16 (Call-In and Urgency) of the Overview and Scrutiny Rules a decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The decision was deemed to be urgent because a final proposal relating to LGR was required to be submitted to the Government by the 28th November 2025.
 - 2.4 Furthermore, Rule 16 states that the call-in procedure shall not apply where the decision being taken is urgent and the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel has agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. The Chairs of both Overview and Scrutiny Panels were consulted and confirmed their agreement that call-in would not apply.
 - 2.5 As per the Council's Constitution any decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel, together with the reasons for urgency. This is the purpose of the report.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 3.1 It is a requirement within the Council's Constitution that decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the

relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel, together with the reasons for urgency.

4. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

None.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda and Reports – Extraordinary Council Meeting [Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 19 November 2025, 7:00 pm - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](#)

Agenda and Report – Extraordinary Cabinet Meeting - [Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 24 November 2025, 7:00 pm - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](#)

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