

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Urgent Decision Taken (2020/001)

Purpose of report

1. To advise the Policy and Resources Committee of an urgent decision that has been taken since the last meeting of the Committee in relation to the Business Rates Pool 2021/22.
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Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- (i) the decision taken under the Urgent Decisions Procedure be noted; and***
- (ii) the subsequent decision to remain in the Worcestershire Business Rate Pool for 2021/22 be noted.***

Introduction and Background

2. The Urgent Decisions Procedure has been adopted for occasions when it would be impractical to call a meeting of the Authority and in such cases the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, shall agree that the matter is urgent.
3. The procedure is set out under Article 9.6 of the Authority's Constitution and requires the Chief Fire Officer to consult on the matter with Group Leaders. Then, the Chief Fire Officer, having regard to the consultation shall decide on the matter. Finally, the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is then reported back to the next meeting of the actual decision-making committee or to the Authority.

Urgent Decision 2020/001

4. Members will be aware that the Treasurer was given delegated authority (in consultation with the Chair of the Authority) to join the Worcestershire Business Rate Pool for 2020/21 if it was deemed appropriate, and consequently the Authority joined the Pool.
5. Due to an oversight the Treasurer omitted to seek this authority to continue in the Pool for 2021/22 and there was no meeting of this Committee of the Fire Authority before the deadline by which MHCLG had to be notified of the pool members for the coming year.
6. In accordance with the Urgent Decisions Process the Chief Fire Officer delegated the decision to the Treasurer in the same way as for 2020/21.

7. After due consultations with the Chair, the Treasurer exercised this delegation and notified MHCLG that the Fire Authority would remain in the Worcestershire Business Rate Pool for 2021/22.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	Potential increased share of Retained Business Rates
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	None
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	None – N/A