

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE

1. Decision to be taken:

The Chief Executive in the exercise of his urgency powers granted to him under the Council's Scheme of Delegation has determined in light of the unprecedented circumstances facing the Council, and wider society, with the outbreak of the Coronavirus that has led to the cancellation of the Council's Planning Committee, to make the following changes to the Council's Scheme of Delegation within the Constitution of the Council, until such time as the Council's Planning Committee can be reconvened:

1. Authority is delegated to the Assistant Director for Planning and the Strategic Director for Economic Growth to make planning decisions in those cases that would otherwise be a Planning Committee item subject to consultation with Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. This will be subject to the usual levels of political engagement on matters of sensitivity; and
2. Paragraph ii) under the heading 'Planning Scheme of Delegation' at page 97 of the Constitution of the Council, that permits the Ward Councillor, or in the case of a conflict of interest, the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to request a planning application to be determined by the Planning Committee (the planning call-in process), be deferred, until such time as the Planning Committee can be reconvened to consider planning applications.

2. This is a: Decision of the Chief Executive under delegated authority

PORTFOLIO HOLDER SUPPORTED OFFICER DECISION

Note: This form should not be used for Key Decisions

3. The following is the decision making body or person:

OFFICER Chief Executive after consultation with Leader of the Council

4. Financial implications from this decision have been communicated to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Leader? Not applicable

5. The decision was taken on: 27 March 2020

Note: - the above date to be completed by Democratic Services upon publication

6. Contact Officer and details: Robert Barlow Robert.barlow@e-lindsey.gov.uk

7. List of documents submitted for consideration in relation to the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made : The Council's Constitution at

[https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/media/7949/Constitution-of-the-Council/pdf/Constitution of the Council 04.03.20.pdf?m=637195387125500000](https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/media/7949/Constitution-of-the-Council/pdf/Constitution%20of%20the%20Council%2004.03.20.pdf?m=637195387125500000)

8. Where the documents are held and where they can be obtained from (except exempt items) when they become available: See answer to point 7 above.

9. The reason for the decision and other alternative options considered and rejected:

REASON: the purpose for this decision is to support the Government on its ongoing commitment to ensure planning decisions are being made, as highlighted by the Government's Chief Planner, where in a letter to the Council's Chief Executive, he makes a plea to Local Planning Authorities to **...take an innovative approach, using all options available to you to continue your service...**". The emphasise on the need to keep the planning system working is the realisation that quick and effective economic growth will be essential once the coronavirus outbreak is brought under control and some sense of normality can return.

Other options considered include the use of virtual meetings. There is currently legislation being past to allow this to take place. However, the Council will need to test suitable software for this to happen and await the actual introductions of the proposed legislation. This does leave a gap in time where planning decisions will need to be made and as set out in the decision above this is on the basis that the delegations remain in place until the Council's Planning Committee can be reconvened.

10. Declaration of any conflicts of interest of the decision making body or the individual:

There are no conflicts of interest in terms of the amendment to the Council's Constitution but in terms of planning decision making officers and the Chairman of Planning will need to consider whether they have any conflicts of interest as each application comes before them in the usual way.

11. Provide a note of any subsequent dispensations granted by the Head of Paid service: None

12. Financial Implications of this Decision:-

Estimated cost:-

Funded from:-

N.B. Please enter names below, signatures will be retained as a hard copy and will not be published therefore should be provided on page 3 of this form:

13. This decision has been signed off by:

Head of Paid Service/S151 Officer or person presiding

Robert Barlow

Leader/Officer **(insert name)**:

Craig Leyland
