



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE

1. Name of member(s) taking decision: Councillor Mike Hall (Leader / Executive member for Finance) and Councillor Richard Allen (Executive member for Development Management)

2. Reason for these members taking the decision: Responsibility for finance and responsibility for Development management. The constitution states that this matter may be considered urgent and the decision taken by the Executive or a member of the Executive.

3. Is this a matter to which an exemption of public and press applies (please see Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution, or seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services Officer:

Public: ✓

Exempt:

4. Type of decision:

Key decision (fees & charges)

Council decision (planning)

Decision outside of the budget & policy framework.

5. Reasons for urgency:

On 20 December, regulations were made under the Town and Country Planning (fees for applications, deemed applications, requests and site visits) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 which provided for an increase in planning fees from 17 January 2018.

In the absence of a scheduled meeting of the Council, there would insufficient time by that date to arrange a quorate meeting of Council.

To delay the decision to the next meeting of Council would mean a loss of revenue to the authority which would not be financially prudent as advised by the Proper Officer for Financial Affairs. In addition, this is a mandatory increase imposed by the Government so to delay for a decision of Council would not change the imposition of the increase from 17 January.

6. Has the chairman of the Scrutiny Commission agreed to the reasons for urgency?

The chairman of the Scrutiny Commission, Councillor Matthew Lay, was consulted on 22 December 2017 and confirmed he was supportive of the urgent decision being taken, given the reason for urgency, on 23 December 2017.

7. Decision taken:

To apply changes to planning fees from 17 January 2018 in accordance with SI 2017 no. 1314 (Town and Country Planning (fees for applications, deemed applications, requests and site visits) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017).

These changes include a 20% increase in planning fees, a new fee of £402 per 0.1 hectare for Permission in Principle applications, the ability to charge for applications for planning permission following the removal of permitted development rights through Article 4 directions or by condition and a fee of £96 for prior approval applications to permitted development rights introduced in April 2015 and April 2017.

8. Date of decision:

9 January 2018

9. Reasons for decision:

To reflect the making of the Regulations under the Town and Country Planning (fees for applications, deemed applications, requests and site visits) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

To implement the changes from the earliest date (17 January 2018) for reasons of prudent financial management and in accordance with regulations.

10. Alternative options considered and rejected:

Considered and rejected delaying the decision to the next meeting of the Council.

Considered and rejected not applying the increases.

11. List background documents included (these will be published and made available for four years, unless the subject matter contains exempt information):

None.

Form completed by: Rebecca Owen, Democratic Services Officer