

	Full Council 20 September 2021
	Report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations
Continuation of Temporary Delegations	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix 1 Delegations to the Chief Executive
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Debra Norman, Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations Tel:020 8937 1578 Email: debra.norman@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Following the expiry of Regulations enabling Local Authority meetings to be held on a remote or hybrid basis during most of the pandemic period, the Leader and Council agreed additional delegations to the Chief Executive to reduce the number of such meetings required. This report proposes that these additional delegations be continued for a further period.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree that the delegated powers set out in Appendix 1 remain in place until the 2022 Annual Council meeting.
- 2.2 To note that delegated powers 1 – 4 in Appendix 1 have also been agreed by the Leader for the same period in respect of executive functions.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 At its April 2021 meeting Council agreed additional delegations for the Chief Executive, following the expiry of Regulations enabling Local Authority meetings to be held on a remote or hybrid basis, to reduce the need for such

meetings. Council agreed in July that these additional delegations would be extended to the date of this September Council meeting.

- 3.2 The government has undertaken a consultation calling for evidence in relation to remote local authority meetings. This process ran for 12 weeks from 25 March 2021. There has as yet been no response from the government to that process.
- 3.3 This means at the present time it is still not possible to hold fully virtual local authority meetings to take decisions or to hold hybrid meetings in which those attending remotely have equal participation rights. This means substantial physical attendance is required for such meetings, both for members and for officers.
- 3.4 Despite the successful vaccination programme the level of infections is still of concern and this is likely to be the case in particular over the winter period. It is therefore proposed that the additional delegations remain in place until the 2022 Annual Council meeting in order to continue to reduce the requirement for (and length of) meetings which require personal attendance.

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 These are contained in the body of the report

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 No specific financial implications arise from this report.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 9.1 No equalities implications arise from this report.

10.0 Background Papers

- 10.1 None

Report sign off:

Debra Norman

Director of Legal, HR, Audit &
Investigations