

General Exception to publicity requirement in relation to a Key Decision - Regulation 10(1)

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 ("The Regulations")

When twenty-eight clear days' notice cannot be given of the intention to take a decision which meets the Council Constitution definition of a Key Decision, the Monitoring Officer is required to give notice in writing to the Chair and any group spokesperson of a relevant Overview and Scrutiny or, if there is no such person, each member of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee, of the matter about which the decision is to be made.

In accordance with Regulation 10(1), notice is hereby given that the following key decision is intended to be taken on behalf of East Hertfordshire District Council by Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health, under delegated authority.

Purpose of decision: To enter into a commercial lease with High Oak Business Centres for parts of the Council offices at Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford.

This decision cannot reasonably be deferred because:

Members have been consulted on the proposal to lease parts of Wallfields throughout, including whether to enter into negotiations with High Oak Business Centres, at meetings of the Modern Workspaces Member Stakeholder Group ("MWMSG"). The MWMSG was set up specifically for this purpose, was consulted on the proposed terms of the lease and gave their support to enter into it at the earliest opportunity. Following several months of negotiation, both parties are now in a position to enter into a lease, however, a delay of 28 days would have a significant impact on High Oak's ability to successfully market their new business location, and could lead to the collapse of the proposed lease. It is therefore impractical to delay entering into the lease for 28 days.

Date of Notice – 28 March 2025