

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 TWO key decisions are intended to be taken on behalf of East Hertfordshire District Council by Councillor Carl Brittain, Executive Member for Financial Sustainability.

1. Annual Procurement Report

Purpose of decision: To provide members with an update on procurement activity over the past 12 months and a forward look at anticipated procurements over the next couple of years. The report also seeks Executive approval to delegate authority to Directors to initiate procurement exercises for contracts due to expire within the next 12 months

Copies of the report and supporting documentation are available for inspection on both the council's website and at the council offices.

This decision cannot reasonably be deferred because:

One of the procurements included in the report — namely the Pantomime production contract — needs to commence its procurement stage before the November committee. Deferring the report would delay this process and risk non-compliance with the corporate procurement strategy, which requires timely notification to members about upcoming procurement activity.

2. MTFP 2026-2031

Purpose of decision: To present the first phase of the budget-setting process for 2026/27, providing members with an early indication of any potential funding gap based on currently available information. This forms the foundation for developing a balanced budget and informs subsequent financial planning stages.

Copies of the report and supporting documentation are available for inspection on both the council's website and at the council offices.

This decision cannot reasonably be deferred because:

The MTFP must go to Executive in October to maintain the timeline for budget development and scrutiny. Delaying this item would disrupt the process and reduce the time available for member engagement and refinement. A session with opposition leaders is already scheduled next week to brief them on the October Executive content, ensuring cross-party awareness and input.

Both reports will also be considered by the Audit & Governance Committee at the appropriate time to ensure adequate scrutiny is carried out in line with governance expectations.

Date of Notice – 19 September 2025