

DECISION NOTICE - CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELATED

Key Executive Decision taken by an OFFICER

KEY DECISION

Gas access process

DECISION TAKER:

Name: Richard Protheroe

Job Title: Strategic Director

Signature:

Date:

REASON WHY THIS DECISION DID NOT APPEAR ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THE URGENCY PROVISIONS WERE NOT FOLLOWED:

This key decision/decision outside the Council's Budget and Policy Framework* was taken as part of the Council's emergency response to the national Coronavirus Emergency. Due to the necessary speed of decision taking at this time it was not possible to comply with the Council's Constitution that includes the requirement to give 28 days' notice of the decision to be taken; publish details 5 clear days before the decision was taken; publish the decision within 2 days of it being taken; and provide the 5 day call-in period before implementation. Nor was it possible to comply with the Urgency provisions in the Constitution

DECISION TAKEN:

1. The access process for gas servicing appointments has been reduced by removing all delays between appointments. The shorter process can allow appointments to be suspended by 10 days for isolation and 14 days at the tenants request without threatening compliance. This arrangement will remain in operation until the coronavirus outbreak has passed.
2. The access process has been changed with the final decision to force entry being made by the housing panel as the courts are closed. This change will remain in place until such time as the courts reopen.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To reduce the risk to tenants and operatives, allow tenants the opportunity to isolate undisturbed and insure the council remains compliant with its statutory obligations.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

Removing appointments from the process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed changes are in line with the latest guidance issued by the Health & Safety Executive and the Gas Safety regulations.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

Proposals do not have any impact on Equality & Diversity and the impact remains the same as the previously approved policy.

CONSULTATIONS:

Liberty Gas Group = in agreement.
Tenancy and letting = in agreement.
The Housing Panel = in agreement.
Cllr Jeannette Thomas = in agreement
Andrew Heath H&S team = in agreement

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

I agree that this decision was reasonable in all the circumstances, was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred

I further agree that any delay likely to be caused by the call -in process would prejudice the Council's or the public interest and that the decision should not therefore be subject to call-in.

Signed:

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date:

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION:

7 January 2021