LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012

KEY DECISION TO BE MADE BY THE CABINET OR A PORTFOLIO HOLDER (GENERAL EXCEPTION)

It has not been possible to include the following item on a previously published notice.

Under the 2012 Regulations, local authorities are required to publish a Notice of key decisions to be made by the Cabinet or a Portfolio Holder at least 28 clear days before the meeting. If a key decision is to be taken and does not comply with Regulation 9 of the 2012 Regulations, the chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee (or in his/her absence, the Mayor) must first be informed.

This Notice sets out a key decision to be taken by the Health and Adult Care Portfolio Holder on 24th February 2014 together with the reasons why the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred. In accordance with Regulation 10, the chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee has been informed.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TITLE OF REPORT:</th>
<th>Empower Card Exit Strategy</th>
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<td>REASON FOR URGENCY:</td>
<td>The proposal is to withdraw the Council’s Empower Card offer and to support customers to alternative ways to receive their care.</td>
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<td>The Empower Card is provided as a mechanism for vulnerable adults to receive payments to purchase care. Some customers choose to employ their own personal assistants, others use their money to buy services from care agencies. Customers will need support to transfer to new payment arrangements and through that process some may need to give notice to their current Personal Assistants. If there is insufficient time to make safe transfers the customer could become liable for redundancy costs which they may in turn request are covered by the Council. With insufficient time the Council could be at risk of challenge.</td>
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<td>Care Providers also need notice for these changes as payment arrangements will alter. Without sufficient planning and transfer time care providers may suffer cash flow difficulties with the worst case scenario being financial instability. The Citi Bank and Coop Bank partnership arrangement will close on 31st March 2014; the Council needs to secure all Council funds before that date for recovery and more importantly to ensure that all customers have ended their customer contribution standing orders, otherwise there may be difficulties in recovering customer funds.</td>
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A decision on the matter cannot be made until five clear working days have expired from the
date of publication of this Notice and from it being placed on deposit for public inspection.

For further information, contact Paul Mountford Democratic Services Officer
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Date: 10th February 2014  Signed: Anita Bradley
   Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer