

## **Use of the Council's urgency processes involving a waiver of the Call-In process.**

Council is asked to note the decision taken and the reasons for urgency.

### **1. Decision: Housing Quarterly Electricity Contract Renewal**

#### **Reason for Urgency:**

Enfield buys electricity and other energy utilities through LASER which is the approved buying agent representing a consortium of local authorities including Enfield. Being part of this consortium enables the Council to access energy at a best value price, taking advantage of the bulk buying powers of a larger group.

The contract for the supply of electricity to housing sites billed on a quarterly basis is due for renewal on 1 October 2016. LASER has put together a tender for this contract and a decision on the new contract was due on 6 September 2016. Prices were received by 2pm and had to be signed off by 4pm that same day. This did not leave enough time to allow for clearance of the 5 day call-in process, which usually follows a decision, before it can be formally implemented. Waiting for the call-in period to pass, would have prevented the Council from securing electricity at the best possible price. For this reason a call-in waiver was sought.

This situation occurs when dealing with other electricity and gas purchases and so a general call-in waiver for future decisions on contracts for the supply of gas and electricity under the above arrangement was agreed by the previous administration. Agreement for a continuation of this arrangement, including water supplies, was also agreed.

The use of the Council's Waiver of Call in procedure was approved by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 August 2016.