

**Divisions Affected – N/A**

**COUNCIL – 30 June 2026**

## **THE USE OF URGENCY PROVISIONS**

**Report by Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **Council is RECOMMENDED to note**
  - (a) the exemption from Call-in of the following decision:
    - Cabinet on 16 June 2026 – SEND Reform Plan

### **Executive Summary**

2. The Constitution makes provision for urgent decisions to be made exempt from call-in on the agreement of the Chair of the Council that the decision is urgent. When this occurs, it must be reported to the next meeting of Council.
3. There was one occasion on which this provision was used since the Annual Meeting of Council on 12 May 2026. The request for the matter to be treated as urgent whereby it would be exempt from Call in was made on 1 May 2026 to the then Chair of the Council, Councillor Lygo. The Chair agreed in this case that the matter should be treated as urgent and it was therefore exempt from Call in by virtue of the Constitution in Part 6.2, Section 19 (z) iii.
4. The decision needed to be implemented before any call-in period for decisions made at Cabinet would expire, as the plan needed to be submitted to the Department for Education by Friday 19 June 2026.

### **Urgency Provisions**

5. The Constitution states (Part 6.2, Section 20) that the provision for Call-In “shall not apply where the decision being taken by the Cabinet, Officer or other decision maker is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council’s or the public’s interests. The record of the decision, and notice by which it is made public shall state whether in the opinion of the decision maker, the decision is an urgent one, and therefore not subject to call in. The Chair of the Council must agree that in all the circumstances the decision should be treated as a matter of urgency. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair’s agreement shall be

required. In the absence of both, the Proper Officer's agreement shall be required. Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency."

6. The Director of Children's Services requested an exemption from Call-In for a Key Decision by the Cabinet on Tuesday 16 June 2026 on the following item:

#### **SEND Reform Plan**

The SEND Reform Plan sets out how Oxfordshire will respond to the Government's proposed SEND reforms and the Schools White Paper, providing a shared, system-wide approach to improving inclusion, outcomes for children and young people with SEND, and long-term financial sustainability. Developed jointly with partners, the plan builds on existing improvement activity and reflects shared accountability across the local area. It is structured around the national SEND reform framework and sets out the priorities and actions required to deliver sustainable improvement locally.

7. The reason for the requested exemption from Call-in was that the decision needed to be implemented before the call-in period for decisions made at Cabinet would expire, as the plan needed to be submitted to the Department for Education by Friday 19 June 2026. Call-in would not expire until 5pm on Monday 22 June 2026.
8. The report on the item can be viewed [here](#).

### **Financial Implications**

9. There are none arising from this report which is noting decisions previously taken.

Comments checked by:

### **Legal Implications**

10. Regulation 19 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 requires that the executive leader submits a report to the authority at least annually on executive decisions taken in cases of special urgency (Regulation 11), including the particulars of each decision.

The Constitution at Part 6.2 (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules), paragraph 20 makes provision for urgent decision-making.

This report is fulfilling both the legal and Constitutional duty to inform Council.

Comments checked by:

Jay Akbar – Head of Legal & Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

ANITA BRADLEY  
Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex: None

Background papers: None

Contact Officer: Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Democratic Services Manager,  
[colm.oacaomhanaigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:colm.oacaomhanaigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

June 2026