

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Decisions made under Special Urgency Procedures and Items Exempted from Call-In on Grounds of Urgency	
REPORT OF: Borough Solicitor	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Council	DATE: 25 th September 2025
SUMMARY OF REPORT: <p>This report sets out for information details of items which have recently been considered under the Constitution's provisions for special urgency and items with have been exempted from call-in on grounds of urgency.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents which require listing were used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Vicky Wemyss-Cooke Democratic Services Town Hall Judd Street London WC1H 9JE</p> <p>Telephone: 020 7974 5726</p> <p>E-Mail: vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk</p>	
RECOMMENDATION: <p>That the Council notes the report.</p>	



Signed by the Borough Solicitor

Date: 16th September 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the circumstances under which a report may be considered as a matter of special urgency and under which a report may be exempted from call-in, and details two reports that have recently been treated matters of special urgency and exempted. This report is coming to Members as the Constitution states that all such items must be reported to a meeting of the Council.

2. Background

2.1 Special Urgency

- 2.1.1 Under the Council's Constitution, if by virtue of the date by which a decision must be taken, a decision cannot be deferred until it has been included in the Forward Plan and nor can at least 5 clear days notice of the decision be given, the decision may only be taken if the decision-taker (if an individual) or the Chair of the body making the decision, obtains the agreement of the Chair of the relevant scrutiny committee that the taking of the decision cannot be reasonably deferred.
- 2.1.2 The matter must then be reported to Council, providing a summary of the matters in respect of which the decisions were taken.

2.2 Exemption from Call-in

- 2.2.1 Under the Constitution, any four Members of the Council may submit a request for any decision of the Cabinet, an individual member of the Cabinet or a committee of the Cabinet, or a key decision of an officer or under joint arrangements, to be called-in for consideration by the relevant Council Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2.2 However, where the decision making body considers that a matter is so urgent that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interest, it may state that it is urgent and that it should not be subject to call-in. The consent of the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee is also required.
- 2.2.3 The Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. This must then be reported to full Council.

3. Reports considered as a matter of special urgency and exempted from call-in

- 3.1 The following decisions have recently been considered as matters of special urgency and exempted from call-in:-

Provision of Community Equipment (AH/2025/15)

A report was published on 3rd September 2025, following the Council's community equipment provider, NRS, going into liquidation on 1st August 2025. Community equipment includes basic aids for daily living, through to complex equipment that supports a wide variety of health and social care needs, and the report detailed a number of steps which had already taken place and a number of steps still to be taken to ensure the continuation of the service.

The report sought the delegation of authority to the Director of Adult Social Care Strategy and Commissioning to enable them, at speed, to make further decisions concerning a replacement supplier, to procure them, to enter into a contract with them and to finalise consortium arrangements with other interested London councils, in order to maintain service to some of Camden's most vulnerable residents.

The Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee agreed to the matter being treated as one of special urgency and to it being exempt from call in, due to the significant threat to the vital interests of residents of the borough who require the ongoing provision of community equipment and due to the fast-paced nature of decision making required as a consequence of NRS entering liquidation.

The Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care approved the recommendations set out in the report on 3rd September 2025.

Further Report on the Provision of Community Equipment (AH/2025/17)

A further report was published on 11th September 2025, following the Council's community equipment provider, NRS, going into liquidation on 1st August 2025. Community equipment includes basic aids for daily living, through to complex equipment that supports a wide variety of health and social care needs, and the report detailed a number of steps which had already taken place and a number of steps still to be taken to ensure the continuation of the service.

The report asked the Leader of the Council to delegate further authority to the Director of Adult Social Care Strategy and Commissioning to enable them, at speed, to make further decisions concerning a replacement supplier, to procure them, to enter into a contract with them and to finalise consortium arrangements

with other interested London councils, in order to maintain service to some of Camden's most vulnerable residents.

The Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee agreed to the matter being treated as one of special urgency and to it being exempt from call in, due to the significant threat to the vital interests of residents of the borough who require the ongoing provision of community equipment and due to the fast-paced nature of decision making required as a consequence of NRS entering liquidation.

The Leader of the Council approved the recommendations set out in the addendum to report on 12th September 2025.

4. Comments of the Borough Solicitor

4.1 The Borough Solicitor has no comments to add.

5. Comments of the Director of Finance

5.1 The Director of Finance has no comments to add.

6. Environmental Implications

6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

REPORT ENDS