Strategy and Resources Committee
10 November 2026

URGENT DECISIONS

Head of Service:	Mark Shephard, Head of Property and Regeneration
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Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 - Urgent decision form 164

Summary

To report to the committee a decision taken by the Director of Housing, Environment and Regeneration on the grounds of urgency, in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

(1) Note the urgent decision taken and the reasons for that decision.

1 Reason for Recommendation

1.1 To report to the Committee a decision taken by one of the Directors and / or the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency, in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

2 Background

2.1 The scheme of delegation sets out that the Chief Executive and Directors are authorised to take decisions on grounds of urgency regarding matters which would otherwise be reserved for determination by a Committee or Council. A matter can be deemed urgent if, in the reasonable opinion of the officer concerned, a delay would seriously prejudice the interest of the Council or of the public and it is not practicable to convene a quorate meeting of the relevant decision-making body in sufficient time to take the decision.

2.2 Since the last ordinary meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee, one urgent decision has been taken by one of the Directors or the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Committee. The decision is set out below:

2.2.1 **Decision 164** – Gas contract renewal on 6 October 2026.

2.2.2 **Urgency reason for decision 164** – The Council's gas contract expired on 30 September 2026 and required renewal. Supplier prices were only valid for one day, meaning that the decision could not reasonably wait until the next scheduled committee meeting.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 None arising directly from this report

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 None arise from this report

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 None arise from this report

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None arise from this report

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 **Section 151 Officer's comments**: Section 151 Officer was consulted as part of the urgent decision-making process. The decision enabled the Council to avoid higher out-of-contract gas rates and provided greater cost certainty during a period of market volatility.

4.2 **Section 24 considerations:** We agreed to proceed with the two-year option on value for money grounds, as it provided greater certainty. At the time this appeared to trigger Section 24, so we started discussions with East Surrey authority and began the process of taking the matter to the shadow council executive and agreed the timeline for shadow authority approval.

4.3 During that process, and after several technical discussions, we were then made aware by our peers in Surrey that we could in fact proceed under general consent, hence not requiring shadow authority approval. We therefore proceeded immediately to finalise the contract without further delay.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 **Legal Officer's comments**: Legal are consulted as part of the urgent decision-making process.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities**: The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- N/A

6.2 **Service Plans**: The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations**: None.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications**: None.

6.5 **Partnerships**: N/A

6.6 **Local government reorganisation (LGR) implications**: There are no implications from LGR for this report.

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- None.

Other papers:

- None.