

REPORT TO:		Council	
DATE:		16 July 2026	
PORTFOLIO:		Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP, (Leader of the Council)	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Julian Joinson, Members Services Manager	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Matters Exempted from the Call-In Procedure	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	N/A

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update the Council in respect of recent executive decisions taken as a matter of urgency where the decision has been exempted from the Call-In Procedure.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the report on recent executive decisions taken as a matter of urgency.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 Rule C14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules sets out the provisions allowing for a period of Call-In by members of a relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in respect of certain executive decisions. That Paragraph includes the detailed procedures which support this arrangement.
- 3.2 Paragraph C14(i) states that the call-in procedure shall not apply where the decision being taken by the executive 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 interest. The record of the decision and notice by which it is made public shall state whether in the opinion of the decision making person or body, the decision is an urgent one, and therefore not subject to call-in and the reason for that opinion. The Mayor must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency prior to the decision being taken. Provision is also made for consent to be obtained in the absence of the Mayor.

- 3.3 In addition to the above, Paragraph C14(i) states that decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.
- 3.5 Recent urgent executive decisions, or Cabinet decisions where the Call-In procedure has been suspended, are summarised in Section 4 below.

4. Urgent Executive Decisions Taken

- 4.1 The following urgent executive decisions have been taken within the last reporting period.

4.2 Lease of Land at Bolton Avenue Playing Fields, Huncoat

The decision and reason for urgency is summarised below:

Decision (taken by the Cabinet on 22nd April 2026)

To advertise the disposal of public open space and, subject to consideration of any objections received, to grant approval for the grant of a lease of land at Bolton Avenue Playing Fields, Huncoat to Huncoat United JFC and to approve delegated powers to officers to agree the detailed terms and to complete any legal documentation.

Reason for Urgency

There were significant time constraints around this proposal. The football pitch would be handed over to the Council in July/August 2026 from United Utilities at which point the Council would need all consents and a lease in place to enable Huncoat United JFC to take possession of the pitch at that time (i.e. the start of the new season). There would not be the time to secure the necessary consents and complete the legal process if the Council could only secure Cabinet Authority in June, in the event that the call-in process was invoked.

4.3 Provision of Grant Funding to Accrington Stanley Community Trust and Lease for Livingstone Road

The decision and reason for urgency is summarised below:

Decision (taken by the Cabinet on 22nd April 2026)

To make a grant to ASCT as a contribution to the construction of two padel courts at the Stanley Sports Hub on Thorneyholme Road, subject certain compliance and consent matters, and to finalise the detailed lease arrangements affecting the site.

Reason for Urgency

This decision could not wait until the next scheduled Cabinet meeting, in the event that the call-in process was invoked, as the construction works needed to commence in May 2026 to enable it to be completed before the wet winter weather and the lease

agreement needed to be progressed to enable ASCT to submit an application for grant funding to external funders later this year.

4.4 Management of Sports Pitch Bookings

The decision and reason for urgency is summarised below:

Decision (taken by the Cabinet on 22nd April 2026)

To approve the waiving of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to appoint Hyndburn Leisure to manage sports pitch bookings for King George V Playing Fields, Memorial Park and White Ash Playing Fields, to approve the duration of the proposed agreement, to delegate the agreement of terms to officers and to note those elements remaining within the responsibility of the Council.

Reason for Urgency

This decision could not wait until the next scheduled Cabinet meeting, in the event that the call-in process was invoked, as the handover to the new provider needed to be implemented after the end of the playing season so the booking procedures could be in place prior to the start of the new season.

4.5 Accrington Market Hall – Rents and other Terms of Trading

The decision and reason for urgency is summarised below:

Decision (taken by the Cabinet on 22nd April 2026)

To confirm agreement to negotiations taking place with existing Market Hall traders on the basis set out in detail in the report and to note the financial impact and possible budget implications for 2027/28.

Reason for Urgency

This decision could not wait until the next scheduled Cabinet meeting, in the event that the call-in process was invoked, as the Council needed to make progress on negotiations with existing market traders and to instruct the Council's consultants to commence marketing activities for additional new traders. Any delay would jeopardise the proposal to re-open the Market Hall in mid-November 2026, to coincide with the Christmas Lights Switch-On events.

4.6 Disposal of Freehold Interest in Land at North side of Walter Street and South side Hindle Street / Oxford Street, Accrington BB5 1QX

The decision and reason for urgency is summarised below:

Decision (taken by the Cabinet on 22nd April 2026)

To agree to the disposal of the Council's freehold reversionary interest in land and premises at North side of Walter Street and South side Hindle Street / Oxford Street and to delegate to officers the authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the proposed sale and to complete the conveyancing.

Reason for Urgency

The decision represented a significant capital receipt for the Council and there was a need to maintain the momentum of the transaction. A delay until the June Cabinet meeting could jeopardise the disposal.

4.7 Town Centre Levelling Up Funded Projects

The decision and reason for urgency is summarised below:

Decision (taken by the Chief Officer/Head of Service on 4th June 2026)

To approve the waiving of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to appoint Conception Design Associates Limited (CDA) of Preston, for the manufacture and installation works for the kitchens, pot wash and bar area within Accrington Market Hall and to delegate authority to officer to enter into the necessary legal agreement.

Reason for Urgency

Approval to the decision could not await the next scheduled Cabinet meeting as the works order needed to be placed before that date if the Council was to keep the price within the project budget and to enable works to be completed in time for the November reopening.

4.8 Copies of the full reports relating to the decisions described at paragraphs 4.2 – 4.6 are not for publication, as they contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Paragraph 3 - relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

4.9 A copy of the report relating to the decision described at paragraph 4.7 can be viewed on the Council's website within the Cabinet Agenda for 24th June 2026 (see link below)

<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/documents/s23895/a%20Town%20Centre%20LUF%20Funded%20Projects.pdf>

5. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

5.1 None

6. Consultations

6.1 None undertaken in respect of this report.

7. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	These are considered within the urgency consent forms and original reports
Legal and human rights implications	These are considered within the urgency consent forms and original reports
Assessment of risk	These are considered within the urgency consent forms and original reports
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	These are considered within the urgency consent forms and original reports

8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: List of Background Papers

8.1 Nil

9. Freedom of Information

9.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information (except the original reports noted at Paragraphs 4.2 – 4.6 above) can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.