

**OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME
RECORD OF OPERATIONAL DECISION**



TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 24 th March 2020	Ref No: LR035
Type of Operational Decision:	
Executive Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/>
Status: Public	
Title/Subject matter: Postponement of Happy Festival and Proms due to Coronavirus	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance – Is the decision:	
(i) within an Approved Budget	Yes
(ii) in accordance with Council Policy	Yes
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]	No change in policy or impact on any group

Details of Operational Decision Taken [with reasons]:

Given the current Coronavirus pandemic the government have put in place a number of measures to limit the spread of the disease. This has included restrictions on the gathering of people. Initially this was through social distancing and advice to avoid mass gatherings, however on 23rd March the Prime Minister ordered people to stay at home and banned gatherings of more than two people.

In this context events are not to take place. The Happy Festival, one of the flagship elements of Bury’s year as Town of Culture, was due to take place in the middle of May. Given the government’s announcement covers at least 3 weeks and indications from elsewhere would suggest this could continue beyond this it is proposed to postpone the event. This is to release resource from the Council in terms of staff time which is more urgently needed on supporting vulnerable residents, eg through new community hubs, and gives time for potential performers to be notified.

Regionally the GM Culture team are looking at ways to continue to support freelance and self-employed creatives and in Bury there could be elements of Happy, in particular New Faces and elements of the social outreach that can take place online, to support the sector at this difficult time and to promote the use of culture in the wellbeing of local residents.

Discussions are ongoing with the Victoria Wood Foundation, Arts Council and GMCA as other funders of Happy/Town of Culture – all are minded to postpone with a new time to be confirmed at later date. The leader has also written to Andy Burnham to give an update on the impact Coronavirus has had on events in the Borough in what is supposed to be Bury’s year as Town of Culture, including to seek views on whether this could be extended.

Decision taken by:	Signature:	Date:
Executive Director or Chief/Senior Officer	L. Ridsdale	24.03.2020
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member/Chair		
Lead Member		
Opposition Spokesperson		

Notes

1. It is not generally a requirement to consult with any Members on Operational Decisions but where a Chief Officer considers it necessary to consult with the appropriate Cabinet Member and/or Lead Member, they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained to confirm that he/she has been consulted.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**

