

Report – City Remembrancer

Measures introduced into Parliament which may have an effect on the work and services provided by the City Corporation

To be presented on Thursday, 21st May 2020

To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London in Common Council assembled.

Bills

The Coronavirus Bill

The Bill was introduced and received Royal Assent prior to the meeting of this Court. The Act is expansive and contains exceptionally broad powers. The powers in Act are be limited to two years, and unlike the powers in the Civil Contingencies Act, the powers granted to the Secretary of State do not require Parliamentary authorisation every 28 days. Measures include powers to reduce obligations on local authorities and granting local authorities and central government powers to help tackle the coronavirus crisis. Additionally, local government elections are postponed to 2021. This provision does not apply to City of London local elections.

In the absence of standard reporting arrangements, a briefing on the Bill's second reading in the Commons was supplied to members of the Policy and Resources Committee, Public Relations and Economic Development Subcommittee and Chief Officers.

Statutory Instruments

The Working Time (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 S.I. No. 365

The Regulations remove the prohibition on carrying over unused leave where it is not reasonably practicable for a worker to take some or all of the leave to which that worker was entitled as a result of the effects of coronavirus. Leave may be carried over and taken during the following two years.

**Date in force
26th March 2020**

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 S.I. No. 392

The Regulations enable meetings to be moved, cancelled or their frequency altered. Provision is made to enable remote meetings to be held and the access to information provisions are consequentially amended as a result. The Regulations are only applicable to meetings which are required to be held or are held before 7th May 2021. The Regulations apply to the Common Council in capacities as a local authority, a port health authority and a police authority.

4th April 2020

The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 S.I. No. 445

24th April 2020

The Regulations make temporary amendments to existing legislation, which relate to children's social care. The Regulations will cease to have effect on 25th September 2021. Changes made by the Regulations includes amending adoption procedures and relaxing timescales during which a local authority must have taken specified steps. Additionally, the Regulations make it permissible for any person to be approved as a local authority foster carer for a temporary period of 24 weeks. The Regulations apply to the Common Council in its capacity as a local authority.

The School Admissions (England) (Coronavirus) (Appeals Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 S.I. No 446

24th April 2020

The Regulations make temporary procedural and constitutional amendments concerning school admission appeals as a result of coronavirus. Principally, they allow for remote hearings based on written submissions and provide greater flexibility over deadlines. The Regulations will cease to have effect on 31st January 2021 and apply to the Common Council in its capacity as a local authority.

(The text of the measures and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office.)