

**Officer Scheme of Delegation
Urgent decisions taken by the Chief Operating Officer**

Paragraph 1.19 of Schedule 6 to Part 3 (Responsibility of Functions) of the Council's Constitution

Report to the Meeting of the Council to be held on 5 February 2015

The Officer Scheme of Delegation states that the Chief Operating Officer may take an urgent decision in relation to an council function (in consultation with the relevant member) if he/she considers it to be in the best interests of the Council or the inhabitants of the Borough and where he/she does not consider it reasonably practicable to convene a meeting of the Council.

A report detailing the action taken in accordance with the Officer Scheme of Delegation must be submitted to the Council. The table below sets out the details of the action taken:

Matter for decision	Decision taken by	Decision and Alternative Options Considered	Reasons for urgency	Date of decision
Loan to enable the management buy out for Sutton Seeds and protect local employment	Executive Director of Operations and Finance/Chief Operating Officer	<p>Decision:</p> <p>To loan Suttons Consumer Products Limited up to £1,500,000 to enable the local management team to complete a buy out of the company from the French parent company Vilmorin.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <p>Issues considered included the loss of over 107 jobs from Torbay's economy would be a blow to the area. The buy out team have worked with a team of advisers in order to review the business operations and in the business plan and presentations made to group leaders and officers they have demonstrated personal commitment, identified costs that can come out of the business and begun to address some of the structural</p>	<p>Any delay likely to be caused by convening a meeting of the Council would prejudice the Council's and/or the public's interests.</p> <p>The decision needed to be taken urgently to enable the completion of the management buy out of Suttons Seeds and protect local employment in Torbay.</p>	18 December 2014

Matter for decision	Decision taken by	Decision and Alternative Options Considered	Reasons for urgency	Date of decision
		<p>changes in the business that will underpin its future growth.</p> <p>Alternative options were either not to agree to the loan or to make an investment at a lower amount.</p>		

Steve Parrock
Executive Director of Operations and Finance/Chief Operating Officer

19 December 2014