

**Economy and Place Scrutiny Call-in
Committee**

11 September 2017

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Pre-Decision Called-In Item: Future Management of Allotments Next Steps

Summary

1. This report provides background to the pre-decision call-in of the item 'Future Management of Allotments Next Steps', setting out the reasons for the call-in and inviting the Committee to consider what feedback, if any, it may wish to make.
2. It also outlines the background to the issue called-in and the role of and options available to this Committee, under the agreed pre-decision call-in arrangements.

Background

3. At its meeting in August 2015, the Executive agreed some operational guidelines to enable and support a pre-decision call-in process. This guidance supplements the pre-existing arrangements for post-decision call-in and is intended to provide all backbench and scrutiny Members with opportunities to comment upon relevant upcoming Executive or Executive Member decisions.
4. In accordance with the arrangements for pre-decision scrutiny call-in, three Members (Councillors Craghill, D'Agorne and Kramm) have called in the item in relation to the Future Management of Allotments Next Steps, for the following reasons:
 - (i) The successful provision and potential expansion of allotments is an important issue for the future of York as a sustainable One Planet city. It is a key part of a local food growing culture in the city. It sits well with objectives under our Health and Well Being Strategy to promote healthy eating, community activity and involvement and tackle social isolation. It can play a part in

education for sustainability and resilience. Allotments can also play a role in providing cheap, healthy food for people suffering social disadvantage.

- (ii) The proposal is a major change to the management of allotments in the city, putting them outside direct Council control and as such our call-in is in order to ensure wider public debate before the final decisions are made. We are aware that some consultation with allotment holders has taken place, but as ward councillors we are also aware that many allotment holders are still either totally unaware or very unclear about what is happening.

Consultation

- 5. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the calling-in Members have been invited to attend and/or speak at the Call-in meeting, as appropriate, together with the appropriate Executive Member and officers.

Analysis

- 6. Members need to consider the reasons for call-in and any comments made at the meeting by speakers, as well as having regard to the information in the officer's draft report to the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism on this matter, attached as Annex A to this report.

Options

- 7. The following options are available to this Committee in relation to dealing with this pre decision call-in, in accordance with the new agreed arrangements:
 - (i) Agree comments or recommendations for submission to the Executive Member, to take into account when making his decision; or
 - (ii) Decide not to make any specific comments/recommendations to the Executive Member on the issue in hand

Council Plan

8. There are no direct implications for this call-in in relation to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities for 2015-19.

Implications

9. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Property, Equalities, or Crime and Disorder implications in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members; namely, to consider and handle the pre decision call-in. However, if it became clear to the Committee from information received that there were implications associated with any comments/recommendations it wished to make then it would be appropriate for the Committee to also recommend that any such implications be looked into, prior to the Executive Member making a decision which might be affected by those implications.

Risk Management

10. There are no direct risk management implications associated with considering the call in of this matter. However, the Committee would be advised to invite the Executive Member to take account of any risks associated with any comments/recommendations which the Committee may wish to make on this matter, prior to implementing any decision.

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to:
 - (i) consider the reasons for calling in this matter prior to decision, together with all submissions made and decide whether they wish to make any specific comments/recommendations for consideration by the Executive Member; and
 - (ii) invite the Executive Member to make his decision at a future Executive Member Decision Session in light of (i) above.

Reason: To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently and in accordance with the new pre-decision call in arrangements.

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**Report
Approved**



Date

1 September 2017

Wards Affected:

All



Annexes:

Annex A – draft report to Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and
Tourism: Future Management of Allotments Next Steps