
**Scrutiny Management Committee
(Calling – In)**

31 March 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

**Called-in Item: Ward Committee Local Improvement
Schemes Grant Applications**

Summary

1. This report sets out the reasons for the call-in of a decision made by the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services in relation to proposed changes to the Ward Committee local improvement schemes grant application process. It also explains the powers and role of Scrutiny Management Committee (Call-In) [SMC] in relation to dealing with the call-in.

Background

2. The decision list from the meeting of the Executive Member and Advisory Panel held on 19 March 2008 is attached as Annex A to this report. The relevant decision is at no. 7 on that list. The original report to the Executive Member and Advisory Panel is attached as Annex B.
3. Following publication of the Executive Member's decision, Councillors Gillies, Galvin and Watt called in the decision for review by SMC (Calling -In) in accordance with the constitutional requirements for post-decision call-in. The reasons given for the call-in are as follows:-

“We feel the new rules etc will inhibit smaller community groups from applying and in more general terms I think it to be very bureaucratic and almost takes away some discretion of Ward members.”

Consultation

4. 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.

Options

5. The following options are available to SMC (Calling-In) in relation to dealing with this call-in in relation to the constitutional and legal requirements under the Local Government Act 2000:
 - (a) to confirm the decision of the Executive Member, on the grounds that the SMC (Calling-In) does not believe there is any basis for reconsideration. If this option is chosen, the decision takes effect from the date of the SMC (Calling-In) meeting;
 - (b) to refer the decision back to the Executive Member, for them to reconsider or amend in part their decision. If this option is chosen, a meeting will be arranged for the decision to be re-considered

Analysis

6. Members need to consider the reasons for call-in and the basis of the decision made by the Executive and form a view on whether there is a basis for reconsideration of that decision.

Corporate Priorities

7. Details of the way in which Ward Committee local improvement schemes support the Council's Corporate Strategy and contribute to the Corporate Priorities are set out in paragraph 11 of Annex B to this report.

Implications

8. There are no known implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members, namely to determine and handle the call-in.

Risk Management

9. There are no risk management implications associated with the call in of this matter.

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to consider the call-in and reasons for it and decide whether they wish to confirm the decision made by the Executive Member or refer the matter to the Executive for reconsideration.

Reason:

To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently and in accordance with the requirements of

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Report Approved **Date** *26 March 2008*

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – decisions of the Executive Member – 19 March 2008

Annex B – report to Executive Member and Advisory Panel – 19 March 2008