

Meeting	Corporate Scrutiny Committee (Calling In)
Date	5 May 2026
Present	Councillors Fenton (Chair), Baxter, Coles, Widdowson, Healey (Substitute), Moroney (Substitute), Vassie (Substitute), Clarke (Substitute) and D Myers (Substitute)
In Attendance	Councillor Pavlovic, Executive Member, Housing, Planning and Safer Communities

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors Ayre, Merrett, Perrett, Taylor and Watson. They were substituted by Councillors Healey, Moroney, Clarke, Myers and Vassie respectively.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests that they might have in the business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

None were declared.

3. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee Call-in meeting, held on 4 November 2024, be approved as a correct record.

4. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been two registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Ben Ffrench spoke on housing delivery and energy standards. He highlighted the benefits of passive house homes, particularly lower energy bills and improved living conditions. He questioned the evidence behind

reducing standards, including market interest, affordability assumptions, and the impact on overall housing numbers. He also raised concerns about limited delivery compared to demand and the role of Section 106 contributions. He urged a stronger long-term housing strategy.

Gwen Swinburn raised concerns about both the call-in process and the proposed housing delivery model. She questioned the evidential basis for the model, noting limited comparison with alternatives and differences from the cited examples. She also raised concerns about significant delegation of decisions to officers, reduced Member oversight, and lack of clear controls.

5. Called-in Item: Housing Delivery Programme Delivery Strategy

Members considered a report which set out the reasons for the call -in and the process by which the committee should consider the call-in of the decisions made by the Executive on 14 April 2026 in respect of the above matter.

The decisions contained in the extract from the relevant Decision Sheet, at Appendix 2 to the report, had been called in by Cllrs Ayre, Hollyer and Wann. The Monitoring Officer had determined that the call-in request, at Appendix 3, was partially valid and element **4(c) Failure to take account of all relevant matters** could be considered.

The Lead Call-in Member, Cllr Ayre, addressed the committee, expanding on their reasons for the call-in. He then responded to questions from Members.

Cllr Pavlovic, the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities, addressed the committee and was joined by the Director of City Development and the Head of Procurement when responding to questions.

Finally, Cllr Ayre summed up and the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities summed up their position.

During the above process the Executive Member confirmed that

- All relevant options had been considered
- The revised approach reflected lessons learned
- The proposed model was considered the most realistic and deliverable.

Under the provisions of the council's constitution at the time the call-in was made, Members were asked to state individually whether they considered the core principles identified in the call-in request had been breached or not.

The following options were available:

- In the event of the majority of Members finding no breach, the call-in request would be immediately closed with no further action unless the Committee identified any areas worth of future exploration by the scrutiny function.
- In the event of the majority of Members finding a breach, the called in decision would be referred back in full for further consideration at the next appropriate meeting of the Executive.

With four Members finding there had been a breach, and five Members finding there had not been a breach, the call-in fell and it was:

Resolved: That the call-in request be closed.

Reason: To determine the outcome of the alleged breach in Executive decision making

Members made the following suggestions in relation to future topics for scrutiny.

- Housing delivery programme, members to receive regular updates or briefings on progress.
- Review the impact of energy costs on residents, including data across tenure types and housing standards, to better understand affordability.

It was also agreed to clarify with the Council's Statutory Officers that the delegations to officers contained within the Housing Delivery Executive report did not exceed the Council's published Scheme of Delegation.

Cllr S Fenton, Chair

[The meeting started at 4.02 pm and finished at 5.27 pm].