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

21 December 2007

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

Summary

1. This report sets out the reasons for the call-in of the decision made by the Executive relating to the Regional Spatial Strategy. 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 relevant Minute and decision of the meeting of the Executive held on 18 December 2007 are set out in Appendix A to this report. The original report to the Executive is included at Appendix B to this report.
3. Subsequent to that decision, Councillors Scott, Merrett, and Simpson-Laing then 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:-

“The Executive has misdirected itself in failing to consider properly or at all the comments of the Shadow Executive”

The comments made by the Shadow Executive for consideration by the Executive at its meeting on 18 December were as follows:-

“The Shadow Executive:

1. *did not accept that 2011 was the appropriate date, as detailed on p.115 of the Executive agenda, but supported 2008 as the applicable date;*
2. *agreed that 1055 was the appropriate figure (this is supported by the national household growth figures and*

- other sources.) instead of 850 as detailed on p.115 of the Executive agenda;*
- 3.agreed that the Council needed to maintain flexibility on demand management of traffic for regional and local initiatives;*
 - 4.supported the existing policy T1;*
 - 5.supported the officer views in terms of employment growth and hectares required;*
 - 6.might send further comments to the Executive on minor details."*

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 in the sense that 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 it back to the decision taker to reconsider or amend in part their decision (ie: the provisional Executive (Calling-In) meeting on 27 November 2007).

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.
7. Members should note also that the deadline for submission of responses on the Regional Spatial Strategy to Government Office is 12noon on Friday 21 December 2007.

Corporate Priorities

8. The proposed responses to the Regional Spatial Strategy changes have been framed to accord with the recently refreshed Corporate Strategy. These are set out in the report to the Executive at Appendix B.

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 or refer it back to them for reconsideration.

Reason:

To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently.

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Report Approved



Date 19/12/07

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Appendix A – decision of the Executive – 18 December 2007
Appendix B - Executive report – 18 December 2007