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

**26 March 2012**

**Report of the Assistant Director, Governance and ICT**

**Called-in Item: Neighbourhood Working – A New Approach**

**Summary**

1. This report sets out the reasons for the pre-decision call-in and the post-decision call-in of the above item, which appeared as item 7 on the agenda for the Cabinet meeting held on 6 March 2012. The report sought members' approval for a new model of Neighbourhood Working through which the Council would work with partners to deliver better services for York's communities. This cover report sets out the powers and role of the Scrutiny Management Committee in relation to dealing with the call-in.

**Background**

2. An extract from the decision list published after the Cabinet meeting is attached at Annex A to this report. This sets out the provisional decisions taken by Cabinet on the called-in item. The original report to the Cabinet on the called-in item is attached as Annex B to this report.
3. Councillors Runciman, Reid and Ayre have initially called in this item for review, pre-decision by the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) in accordance with the constitutional requirements. The reasons given for the call in are:
  - (i) *There has been a complete lack of consultation with stakeholders, including ward councillors and ward organisations such as Parish Councils. The results of consultations should be clearly reported.*

- (ii) *The potential effect of the measures being suggested to neighbourhood working across the city mean that any decision on the future of this report should be taken by all members, given the impact it will have on all communities in the city.*
  - (iii) *The report does not take into account the continual running costs of present projects (such as the cost of salt bins already in place), and the effect they might have on future budgets.*
  - (iv) *Options other than the proposed 'Community Contracts' concept have not been properly proposed or discussed.*
4. Following the provisional Cabinet decision on this matter on 6 March 2012, Councillors Barton, Healey and Galvin then also called in the item, post decision, for review by the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) in accordance with the constitutional requirements. The reasons given for the post-decision call in are:
- (i) *Lack of consultation with Parish Councils and Ward Members, and the potential effect lack of grants will have on the future of local organisations.*
  - (ii) *Challenge to the assumption the new system will be non-bureaucratic. (Paragraph 8).*
  - (iii) *Opposition to a non elected organisation distributing public money by way of grants previously voted upon by residents.*
  - (iv) *Lack of information regarding the effect of double taxation following the implementation of the scheme.*

## **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.

## **Options**

6. The following options are available to SMC (Calling-In) in relation to dealing with both pre and post decision call-ins, in accordance with

the constitutional and legal requirements under the Local Government Act 2000:

- (i) To decide that there are no grounds to make specific recommendations to the Cabinet in respect of the report. If this option is chosen, the provisional decisions taken on the item by Cabinet at their meeting held on 6 March 2012 will be confirmed and will take effect from the date of the SMC (Calling-In) meeting; or
- (ii) To make specific recommendations to the Cabinet on the report, in light of the reasons for given for the pre and post decision call-ins. If this option is chosen, the matter will be re-considered by the Cabinet at a meeting of Cabinet (Calling-In) to be held on 3 April 2012.

### **Analysis**

- 7. Members need to consider the reasons for both pre- and post decision call-in and the report to the Cabinet and form a view on whether there is a basis to make specific recommendations to the Cabinet in respect of the report.

### **Council Plan**

- 8. The Neighbourhood Working model is key to delivering the Stronger Communities priorities within the Council Plan and its key priorities including community engagement, stronger voluntary sector, safer inclusive communities, improved community infrastructure, healthy sustainable communities and communities where young people flourish.

### **Implications**

- 9. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Property, Equalities, or Crime and Disorder implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members; namely, to determine and handle the call-ins.

### **Risk Management**

- 10. There are no risk management implications associated with the pre or post decision call in of this matter.

## Recommendations:

11. Members are asked to consider both the pre- and post decision call-in and their accompanying reasons and decide whether or not they wish to make specific further recommendations on the report to the Cabinet.

**Reason:** To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently and in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

## Contact details:

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 16 March 2012

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Annexes

Annex A – Provisional decisions of the Cabinet 6 March 2012 (extract from the decision list)

Annex B – Report to Cabinet meeting on 6 March 2012

## Background Papers

Provisional decisions of the Cabinet on the called in item (published on the Council's website after the meeting on 7 March 2012)