

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

31 October 2014

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

**Called-in Item: Rewiring of Public Services: Business Case for
Children’s Services**

Summary

1. This report sets out the reasons for the call-in of the decisions made by the Cabinet on 9 October 2014 in relation to the Children’s Services, Education and Skills Transformation Programme. Cabinet had been asked to approve the Business Cases for Early Years, Services to Young People and the School Improvement and Skills Service.

This cover report sets out the powers and role of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee in relation to dealing with the call-in.

Background

2. An extract from the Decision Sheet issued after the Cabinet meeting is attached as Annex A to this report. This sets out the decision taken by the Cabinet on the called-in item. The original report to the Cabinet meeting on the called-in item is attached as Annex B to this report.
3. Cabinet’s decision has been called in, firstly, by Councillors Brooks, Douglas and Doughty for review by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) (Calling-In), in accordance with the constitutional requirements for call-in. The following are the reasons given for the call-in:
 - The current location of Castlegate is far less imposing than for example West Offices and the move would therefore be worse for young and especially disengaged people

- It is at odds with the Health & Wellbeing Strategy & Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and their emphasis on the greater need for counselling as a preventative service.
- It flies in the face of the government parity of esteem for mental health services.
- There has been inadequate consultation with the most affected groups.
- The budgetary savings may not materialise if, as a result of the change of location, the current uptake of the service is not maintained and the number of Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETS) rises.

The decision has then subsequently also been called in by Councillors Aspden, D'Agorne and Runciman for review by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) (Calling-In), in accordance with the constitutional requirements for call-in. These Members are opposed to the decision to close Castlegate and re-locate the remaining services to West Offices for the following reasons:

- When Castlegate opened 2007, it brought together a number of agencies and different funding streams to offer a comprehensive support service for young people in a user-friendly, accessible and flexible location.
- Through offering effective support and advice the centre has an outstanding track-record of helping keep young people safe, healthy, off drugs, out of the criminal justice system, in suitable accommodation and in work.
- This effective early-intervention is crucial in many areas, including mental health where half of all diagnosable conditions start by the age of 14 and 75% by the age of 21.
- The closure of Castlegate, cuts in services, and the re-location of remaining services to West Offices jeopardises all this work and abandons the commitment to effective early-intervention.
- West Offices – a large, public and corporate building – is not a suitable location for the services which will remain.

- This decision has been taken with little consultation or prior notice and without properly considering alternatives.
 - We would urge Cabinet to withdraw the proposal and, at the very least, delay the closure of Castlegate in order to ensure that other options, such as suitable co-location with another service, can be considered.
4. Since the calling-in of this decision, a petition relating to Castlegate has been forwarded to the Council. The petition containing 1,318 signatories, requests the Council Leader to 'Review the decision to remove the provision of holistic information, support and counselling for young people 16-25 in York, provided by Support Workers, Careers Advisors and Counsellors at Castlegate.' This petition will be considered at the next Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting on 10 November 2014, in accordance with the Council's new petitions scheme. Link attached <http://www.change.org/p/james-alexander-review-the-decision-to-remove-the-provision-of-holistic-information-support-and-counselling-for-young-people-16-25-in-york-provided-by-support-workers-careers-advisors-and-counsellors-at-castlegate>

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 CSMC (Calling-In) Members in relation to dealing with this call-in, in accordance with the constitutional and legal requirements under the Local Government Act 2000:
- a. 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 original decision taken on the item by the Cabinet on 9 October 2014 will be confirmed and will take effect from the date of the CSMC (Calling-In) meeting; or
 - b. To make specific recommendations to the Cabinet on the report, in light of the reasons given for the call-in. If this option is chosen, the matter will be reconsidered by Cabinet at a meeting of Cabinet (Calling-In) to be held on 25 November 2014.

Analysis

7. Members need to consider the reasons for 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. There are no direct implications for this call-in in relation to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities for 2011-15.

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-in.

Risk Management

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

Recommendations:

11. Members are asked to consider all the reasons for calling in this decision and decide whether they wish to confirm the decisions made by the Cabinet or refer the matter back for reconsideration and make specific recommendations on the report to Cabinet.

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

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**Report
Approved**



Date 10 October 2014

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Extract from the Decision Sheet produced following the Cabinet meeting on the called-in item.

Annex B – Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, 9 October 2014.

Background Papers

None