

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

14 July 2015

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

**Called-in Item: New Council Housing and Approval for Development
at Ordnance Lane**

Summary

1. This report sets out the reasons for the call-in of the decisions made by the Executive on 25 June 2015. The Executive firstly gave approval for the inclusion of new Council housing as part of the ongoing project to demolish and replace Ordnance Lane homeless hostel and secondly reported details of a number of sites identified for development as part of the first and second phase of new Council housing.

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

Background

2. An extract from the Decision Sheet issued after the Executive meeting is attached as Annex A to this report. This sets out the decision taken by the Executive on the called-in item. The original report to the Executive meeting on the called-in item is attached as Annex B to this report.
3. The Executive's decision has been called in by Councillors S Barnes, Boyce and Derbyshire for review by the Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee (CSMPSC) (Calling-In), in accordance with the constitutional requirements for call-in. The Members indicated that they specifically wished to call-in the decision to halt the process of developing new council housing on Newbury Avenue in Westfield ward, for the following reasons:

- That in halting the scheme the Executive has chosen to ignore the fact that a full consultation has already been undertaken where residents' views were listened to. Amendments were made to the proposal following objections received from four local residents and the local Residents Association, prior to the consideration of the planning application;
- The scheme has already been agreed for development following that same planning application. Executive councillors should not now be seeking to retrospectively bring political influence beyond the exercising of a quasi-judicial function of the council;
- The scheme delivers much needed affordable housing in a climate of ever increasing need and at a time when York continues to experience an affordable housing crisis that shows no signs of abating;
- That this decision directly contradicts both the council leader's expressed comments in the same meeting where he stated that the 'affordable housing challenge is massive, is one we will have to address and will address", and the Executive Member for the Environment's professed commitment to affordable housing through his comments at the same meeting;
- No consideration has been given to the impact of any permanent removal of the Newbury Avenue scheme on the commissioning process now the tender has been issued. The Executive Member responsible needs to be clear about the cost to York taxpayers of removing this scheme from the tender and whether the process will have to be restarted if this is what the Executive agrees to do.

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 CSMPSC (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 Executive in respect of the report. If this option is chosen, the original decision taken on the item by the Executive on 25 June 2015 will be confirmed and will take effect from the date of the CSMPSC (Calling-In) meeting; or
 - b. To make specific recommendations to the Executive on the report, in light of the reasons given for the call-in. If this option is chosen, the matter will be reconsidered by the Executive at a meeting of Executive (Calling-In) to be held on 23 July 2015.

Analysis

6. Members need to consider the reasons for call-in and the report to the Executive and form a view on whether there is a basis to make specific recommendations to the Executive in respect of the report.

Council Plan

7. 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

8. 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

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

Recommendations:

10. 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 Executive or refer the matter back for reconsideration and make specific recommendations on the report to the Executive.

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:

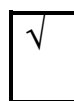
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Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

**Report
Approved**



Date 6 July 2015

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 Executive meeting on the called-in item.

Annex B – Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods, 25 June 2015

Background Papers

None