

**Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny  
Management Committee (Calling In)**

**3 February 2020**

Report of the Director of Governance

**Called-in Item: Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund – Progress and  
Authority to Spend**

**Summary**

1. This report sets out the reasons for the call-in of the decisions made by the Executive Leader on 15 January 2020 in respect of the Inclusive Growth Fund. This report also sets out the powers and role of the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling-In) in dealing with the call-in.

**Background**

2. An extract from the Decision Sheet issued after the Decision Session of the Executive Leader (incorporating Policy, Strategy & Partnerships), in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy & Strategic Planning, is attached as Annex 1 to this report. This sets out the decisions taken by the Executive Leader on the called-in item. The original report to the Executive Leader on 15 January 2020 is attached as Annex 2 to this report.
3. The decisions have been called in by three Councillors for review by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling-In) in accordance with the Constitutional requirements.
4. Councillors Douglas, K Taylor and Webb have called in the Executive Leader's decisions for the following reasons:
  - i. *While many of the proposals have some merit, very few of them relate to inclusive growth, resulting in a misappropriation of retained business rates funding;*
  - ii. *A number of the items funded are items that would either have to be funded anyway or should be funded from another budget, suggesting the Leader is using inclusive growth funding to allow for*

*savings elsewhere, e.g. consultation on the Economic Strategy, energy efficiency survey of the council's commercial estate.*

- iii. Making growth genuinely inclusive requires a long-term strategy, supported by measures that are significant and won't be halted after one or two years – for many of the funding decisions taken it is difficult to see how they will make any meaningful impact given the level of funding and time period involved.*

## **Consultation**

5. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, one representative from the Group of calling-in Members has been invited to attend and/or speak at the Call-in meeting, as appropriate.

## **Options**

6. The following options are available to CCSMC (Calling-In) Members in relation to dealing with this post decision 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 decisions taken on the item by the Executive Leader on 15 January 2020 will be confirmed and will take effect from the date of the CCSMC (Calling-in) meeting; or
  - b) To make specific recommendations to the Executive on the report, in light of the reasons given for post-decision call-in. If this option is chosen the matter will be considered at a meeting of Executive (Calling-In) to be held on 13 February 2020.

## **Analysis**

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

## **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 2019/20.

## 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 these decisions and decide whether they wish to confirm the decisions made by the Executive Leader or refer the matter back for reconsideration and make specific recommendations on the report to the Executive Leader.

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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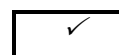
Report Approved



Date 23.1.2020

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

## **Annexes**

**Annex 1** – Extract from the Decision Sheet produced following the Decision Session of the Executive Leader on the called-in item.

**Annex 2** – Report of the Corporate Director of Economy & Place on the Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund – Progress and Authority to Spend.