
**Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee
(Pre Decision Calling In)**

24 May 2016

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Pre-Decision Called-In Item– Review of Play Policy, Playground Investment and Maintenance

Summary

1. This report provides background to the pre-decision call-in of the Review of Play Policy, Playground Investment and Maintenance setting out the reasons for the call-in and inviting the Committee to consider what feedback, if any, it may wish to make.
2. It also sets out the role of and options available to this Committee, under the agreed pre-decision call-in arrangements.

Pre-Decision Call-in Arrangements

3. At its meeting in August 2015, the Executive agreed some operational guidelines for enabling and supporting a pre-decision call-in process. This supplements the pre-existing arrangements for post-decision call in and is intended to provide all backbench and scrutiny Members with opportunities to comment upon relevant upcoming Executive or Executive Member decisions.
4. In accordance with the arrangements for pre-decision scrutiny call-in, three Members (Councillors Craghill, D'Agorne & Kramm) have called in the intended decision in relation to the Review of Play Policy, Playground Investment and Maintenance, for the following reasons:
 - i. Playground Investment and Maintenance is a key issue in the city centre wards and needs further consultation with the ward councillors
 - ii. The policy should specify how to address the issues about CYC's capacity for regular maintenance of any new equipment.
 - iii. The new policy should promote play as the primary source of well-being and learning for young children and essential provider of pre-numeracy, pre-literacy and social skills and the basis for future learning of all kinds.

- iv. The policy should clarify and enhance which requirements are set for developers to provide on-site play space and equipment for all new developments of more than a few houses
- v. The policy should show new approaches on maintaining and developing York's playgrounds and playing fields.
- vi. The policy should intensify close CYC cooperation with voluntary sector organisations.

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, together with the appropriate Executive Member and officers.

Analysis

6. Members need to consider the reasons for call-in and any comments made at the meeting by speakers, as well as have regard to the information in the officer's report to the Executive Member on this matter, attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

Options

7. The following options are available to this Committee in relation to dealing with this pre decision call-in, in accordance with the new agreed arrangements:
 - Agree comments or recommendations for submission to the Executive Member, to take into account when making his decision; or
 - Decide not to make any specific comments/recommendations to the Executive Member on the issue in hand

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 2015-19.

Implications

9. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Property, Equalities, or Crime and Disorder implications in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members; namely, to consider and handle the pre decision call-in. However, if it became clear to the Committee from information received that there were implications associated with any comments/

recommendations it wished to make then it would be appropriate for the Committee to also recommend that any such implications be looked into, prior to the Executive Member making a decision which might be affected by those implications.

Risk Management

10. There are no direct risks associated with considering the call in of this matter. However, the Committee would be advised to invite the Executive Member to take account of any risks associated with any comments/recommendations which the Committee may wish to make on this matter, prior to implementing any decision.

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to:

- (i) Consider the reasons for calling in this matter prior to decision, together with all submissions made and decide whether they wish to make any specific comments/recommendations for consideration by the Executive Member; and
- (ii) Invite the Executive Member to make his decision at a Executive Member Decision Session in light of (i) above.

Reason: To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently and in accordance with the new pre-decision call in arrangements.

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Wards Affected:

All



Annexes:

Appendix 1 – Report to Executive Member on the Review of Play Policy, Playground Investment and Maintenance