



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CALL-IN PROCEDURE
(Standing Order 35)**

Decision of Cabinet to be called in:

Date of meeting	11 September 2014
Minute number	54
Subject	Early Years and Children’s Centres

Reason(s) for call-in (use additional sheet if required):

We are concerned that such a huge reduction in service provision will have a real and adverse impact on those communities who have come to rely upon the valuable services offered through our Children’s Centres.

A decision so crucial to the Council’s provision of Early years services should be subject to further member scrutiny.

Mindful of the concerns raised over alleged deficiencies with the consultation on the closure of the Lyndale School, we require further details as to how future consultations to ‘progress’ the recommendations will take place and its format.

We are concerned that the Leader of the Council is reported to have said that the plans mean the Council will retain the buildings and “hopefully have a new government next year and we can build these services back up”. Is the mothballing of buildings in the hope of a change in government conducive to a well thought through Early Years policy? Is the Leader confident a different government would allow for the ‘building up’ of these services and what is the evidence of this? These are questions which should be further explored.

Called in by [signature(s) to be inserted]:

Councillor	Paul Hayes
Councillor	Jeff Green
Councillors:	
(1)	Geoffrey Watt

APPENDIX 2

(2)	Leah Fraser
(3)	John Hale
(4)	Gerry Ellis
(5)	Lesley Rennie
(6)	Tom Anderson
(7)	Steve Williams
(8)	Bruce Berry
(9)	Adam Sykes
(10)	Eddie Boulton

***Received by:**

Signature:	Date	Time
On behalf of the Head of Legal and Member Services	1 October 2014	

Referred to:

Policy and Performance Co-ordinating Committee	Date 15 October 2014
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*This form must be received by the Head of Legal and Member Services by **no later than 5.00 pm** on the fifth working day following notification that the minutes have been published.

APPENDIX 2

STANDING ORDER 35

Calling in of decisions

(1) All decisions of:

- (i) the Executive Board,
- (ii) an individual member of the Executive Board or
- (iii) a committee of the Executive Board, and
- (iv) key decisions taken by an officer;

shall be published, and shall be available at the main offices of the Council normally within 2 days of being made. All members of the Council will be sent a copy of the decision.

(2) That Minute(s) will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, unless the decision is called in for scrutiny by 5:00p.m. on the final day of the call-in period of five clear working days from the date of publication. (Adjusted by a maximum of one day if there is one or more Bank Holidays in that period)

(3) (a) During that period, the Chief Executive shall Call-In a decision for scrutiny by the Co-ordinating Committee if so requested by any six members of the Council who have given detailed reasons for the Call-In of the decision. The detailed reasons must be provided by the Lead signatory, by the Call In deadline. When a Call In is requested the Chief Executive shall liaise with the Member listed first on the Call-In schedule, to ensure there is sufficient information provided to enable the Call-In to proceed. As long as there is a clear reason given, the call-in should be allowed. He/she shall then notify the decision-taker of the Call-In. He/she shall call a meeting of the Committee on such date as he/she may determine, where possible after consultation with the Chair of the Co-ordinating Committee, and in any case within 15 working days of the decision to call-in.

(b) The relevant Chief Officer and all members will be notified of a call-in immediately and no action will be taken to implement the decision until the call-in procedure has been completed. A decision of the Cabinet, a committee of the Cabinet or individual Cabinet member may be called in only once.

(4) Having considered the decision, the Co-ordinating Committee may:-

- (i) refer it back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns or;
- (ii) refer the matter to full Council. Such a referral should only be made where the Co-ordinating Committee believes that the decision is outside the

APPENDIX 2

policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget. The procedures set out in those rules must be followed prior to any such referral.

- (5) If a decision is referred back to the decision making person or body it shall be reconsidered in the light of the written concerns of the Co-ordinating Committee before a final decision is made.
- (6) If following a call in, the Co-ordinating Committee does not refer the matter back to the decision making person or body and does not refer the matter to Council, the decision shall take effect on the date of the Co-ordinating Committee meeting. If the Co-ordinating Committee does not meet the decision shall take effect from the date when the Committee should have met.
- (7) If the matter is referred to full Council and the Council does not object to a decision which has been made, then the decision will become effective on the date of the Council meeting.
- (8) If the Council does object the Council may take a decision, which is outside the policy and budgetary framework. Otherwise the Council will refer any decision to which it objects back to the decision-making person or body, together with the Council's views on the decision. That decision making body or person shall choose whether to amend the decision or not before reaching a final decision and implementing it. Where the decision was taken by the Executive Board as a whole or a committee of it, a meeting will be convened to reconsider within ten working days of the Council request. Where the decision was made by an individual, the individual will reconsider within ten working days of the Council request.
- (9) Call-in should only be used in exceptional circumstances where members have evidence which suggests that the decision was not made in accordance with the principles of decision making in the constitution.
- (10) Call-in and urgency
 - (a) The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where the decision being taken by the Cabinet is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay is likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interest. The record of the decision and the notice by which it is made public shall state whether, in the opinion of the decision making person or body, the decision is an urgent one, and therefore not subject to call-in. The Chief Executive must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonably in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.
 - (b) The operation of the provisions relating to call-in and urgency shall be monitored annually, and a report submitted to Council with proposals for review if necessary.