



HILLINGDON  
LONDON



# Executive Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** THURSDAY, 15 JULY 2010

**Time:** 7.30 PM OR AT THE RISING  
OF THE CABINET MEETING

**Venue:** COMMITTEE ROOM 7 -  
CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH  
STREET, UXBRIDGE UB8  
1UW

**Meeting  
Details:** Members of the Public and  
Press are welcome to attend  
this meeting

**This agenda and associated  
reports can be made available  
in other languages, in Braille,  
large print or on audio tape on  
request. Please contact us for  
further information.**

## Councillors on the Committee

Eddie Lavery (Chairman)  
John Riley (Vice-Chairman)  
Mo Khursheed (Labour Group Lead)  
Brian Crowe  
Anita MacDonald  
Brian Stead

## Representative Members for Education issues:

Vacancy – Church of England Diocesan  
Representative

Anthony Little – Roman Catholic  
Diocesan Representative

Vacancy – Parent Governor  
Representative

**Published:** Wednesday, 7 July 2010

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This Agenda is available online at:  
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# Executive Scrutiny

## About this Committee

This Committee exercises the right set out in the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules to **call-in and recommend for reconsideration any decisions made but not yet implemented** by the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, a Council Committee or a delegated officer.

“Call in” enables the Committee:

- To question the circumstances of the decision
- To ask for more information about the decision if that contained in the report recommending the decision is considered inadequate
- To decide whether to ask for the decision to be reconsidered by the person or Committee that took it.

## Rules of Procedure

### Call-In

- (a) When a decision is made by the Cabinet, an individual Member of the Cabinet or a Committee of the Cabinet, or a Key Decision is made by an officer with delegated authority from the Cabinet, or under joint arrangements, the decision shall be published, including by electronic means, and shall be available at the Civic Centre normally within 2 working days of being made.
- (b) The notice of the decision will bear the date on which it is published and notified to all Members of the Council and will specify that the decision will come into force, and will then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days after the publication of the decision, unless the decision is called-in by the Executive Scrutiny Committee.
- (c) The Committee will normally meet immediately after the conclusion of a meeting of Cabinet to enable Members to review the decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting and give consideration to the potential for call-ins of items. Should there not be a consensus as to which decisions require such consideration then the matter will be determined by a majority vote of those Members of the Committee present and able to vote (with respect to the normal rules as set out in the Code of Conduct).
- (d) On areas where Members request further information or clarification, officers will be asked to provide a response to the Committee queries by midday on the following Monday following the Cabinet and this Committee meetings.
- (e). These responses will be sent to Members of this Committee by email, and based on this information, Members will be asked to email or telephone Democratic Services

on whether they are content with the information supplied or whether they recommend the calling –in of the particular item. The majority of the Committee Members will have to agree to the call-in request for it to proceed.

- (f). If an item is called in, another formal meeting of the Committee will take place on the Tuesday (or the Thursday at the latest) of the following week after Cabinet, where relevant officers and the relevant Cabinet Member, if appropriate, will be invited to discuss the called-in item.
- (g) Decisions made by an individual Member of the Cabinet or a Key Decision made by an officer with delegated authority from the Cabinet, can be called-in by agreement of the Chairman of the Committee and the lead representative of the majority party on the Committee within 5 working days of the decision being published. These Members shall inform the Head of Democratic Services of the reasons for the call-in. The Executive Scrutiny Committee will meet within 5 days of the Head of Democratic Services being notified to consider the decision.
- (e) If, having considered the decision, the Executive Scrutiny Committee are still concerned about it, then it may:
  - refer it back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns, or
  - refer the matter to full Council, but only in the circumstances set out below.

A decision will not be referred to full Council unless either the Committee believes it to be contrary to the Policy Framework or Budget, or considers that it was a Key Decision that was not dealt with as such by the Cabinet. If it is referred to the decision maker they shall then reconsider within a further 5 working days, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

- (f) If following an objection to the decision, the Executive Scrutiny Committee does not hold the two meetings within 10 working days of the date of the Cabinet meeting, the original decision shall take effect at the end of the 10-day period.
- (g) If the matter was referred to full Council and the Council does not object to a decision which has been made, then no further action is necessary and the decision will be effective in accordance with the provision below.
- (h) If the Council does object, it has no authority to make decisions in respect of a Cabinet decision unless it is contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly consistent with the budget. Unless that is the case, 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 Cabinet as a whole or a Committee of it, a meeting will be convened to reconsider within 10 working days of the Council request. Where the decision was made by an individual, the individual will reconsider within 10 working days of the Council request.

- (i) If the Council does not meet, or if it does but does not refer the decision back to the decision making body or person, the decision will become effective on the date of the Council meeting or expiry of the period in which the Council meeting should have been held, whichever is the earlier.

### **CALL-IN AND URGENCY**

The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where the decision being taken by the Cabinet or executive member is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests or could lead to an (increased) risk of damage to people or property. The record of the decisions, and 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 Head of Paid service or his/her nominee and the Chairman of the Executive Scrutiny Committee or his/her nominee must be informed that the decision will be implemented immediately upon their all agreeing that the decision is reasonable and to it being treated as a matter of urgency, or after 2 clear days should no objection to urgent implementation be received. Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

# Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence and to report the presence of any substitute Members
- 2 Declarations of Interest in matters coming before this meeting
- 3 To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2010 (**Pages 1- 4**)
- 4 Exclusion of Press and Public

To confirm that the items of business marked Part I will be considered in Public and that the items marked Part II will be considered in private.

- 5 Consideration of Any Call-Ins (**Page 5-8**)

To hear the Call-In of any decisions made at the Cabinet meeting prior to this meeting or made by Cabinet Members, other Council Committees or a delegated officer and published within five working days of this meeting.

Members should bring their Cabinet agenda to the meeting.

Members should consider any other decisions published in the five working days before this meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to decide whether to refer back any decision to the decision maker.

# Agenda Item 3

## Executive Scrutiny Committee

24 June 2010

### Minutes



HILLINGDON  
LONDON

	<p><b>Members Present:</b> Councillors Edward Lavery (Chairman), Brian Crowe, Mo Khursheed, Anita MacDonald, John Riley and Brian Stead.</p> <p><b>Representative Member for Education Issues:</b> Tony Little.</p> <p><b>Also Present:</b> Councillor John Major.</p> <p><b>Officer Present:</b> Khalid Ahmed (Democratic Services Manager).</p>		
7.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>None.</p>		
8.	<p><b>Minutes of the meetings held on 27 May 2010</b></p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>		
9.	<p><b>Exclusion of the press and public</b></p> <p>It was agreed that all items of business were considered in public.</p>		
10.	<table border="1"><tr><td><p><b>Consideration of any Call-Ins of decisions made at the Cabinet meeting on 24 June 2010</b></p><p>Members gave consideration to the Cabinet reports of 24 June 2010 and after careful consideration Members decided not to call-in any decision made by the Cabinet at their meeting.</p><p>However Members sought clarification on the following items:</p><p>Cabinet Agenda Item 7 - National Housing Revenue Account Review</p><p>On page 73 of the report, paragraph 10, reference was made to the current HRA subsidy system being generally held to be unfair by the majority of stakeholders. Members asked for further information on this in relation to how many stakeholders found it unfair, which stakeholders found it unfair, and what was the percentage of stakeholders that found it unfair?</p></td><td><p><b>Action By:</b></p></td></tr></table>	<p><b>Consideration of any Call-Ins of decisions made at the Cabinet meeting on 24 June 2010</b></p> <p>Members gave consideration to the Cabinet reports of 24 June 2010 and after careful consideration Members decided not to call-in any decision made by the Cabinet at their meeting.</p> <p>However Members sought clarification on the following items:</p> <p>Cabinet Agenda Item 7 - National Housing Revenue Account Review</p> <p>On page 73 of the report, paragraph 10, reference was made to the current HRA subsidy system being generally held to be unfair by the majority of stakeholders. Members asked for further information on this in relation to how many stakeholders found it unfair, which stakeholders found it unfair, and what was the percentage of stakeholders that found it unfair?</p>	<p><b>Action By:</b></p>
<p><b>Consideration of any Call-Ins of decisions made at the Cabinet meeting on 24 June 2010</b></p> <p>Members gave consideration to the Cabinet reports of 24 June 2010 and after careful consideration Members decided not to call-in any decision made by the Cabinet at their meeting.</p> <p>However Members sought clarification on the following items:</p> <p>Cabinet Agenda Item 7 - National Housing Revenue Account Review</p> <p>On page 73 of the report, paragraph 10, reference was made to the current HRA subsidy system being generally held to be unfair by the majority of stakeholders. Members asked for further information on this in relation to how many stakeholders found it unfair, which stakeholders found it unfair, and what was the percentage of stakeholders that found it unfair?</p>	<p><b>Action By:</b></p>		

	<p><i>[Subsequent to the meeting, officers provided the following response:</i></p> <p><i>The HRA subsidy system is generally regarded as unfair by councils and tenants who lose out from the system. No survey information was available but this feeling had been expressed by officers during the last decade or so in numerous national conferences on the subsidy system. Individual, annual HRA rent setting reports within the majority of councils also contained references to the unfairness of the subsidy system.</i></p> <p><i>The Audit Commission in their 2005 report, 'Financing Council Housing' also pointed out that: 'The current system means that in many areas, local authorities' tenants, on low incomes, are subsidising services to tenants who may also be on low incomes in other local authorities. This is in contrast with other government initiated investment programmes, which make significant demands on the exchequer and therefore on national taxation.'</i></p> <p><i>The number of dissenters was significant. Of the 205 local authorities in the HRA subsidy system in 2008-2009, 153 were making a contribution into the system (negative subsidy) and 52 were receiving subsidy from the system (positive subsidy). The requirement for those authorities in negative subsidy to contribute some of their rent income back to central Government for redistribution to other areas was particularly unpopular as it took away some of the money paid as rent by tenants, who were generally on low incomes or on benefit, into the overall national purse.</i></p> <p><i>Future projections from the current formula also clearly indicated that all housing authorities would become negative subsidy authorities. Consequently, even the authorities that gained from the subsidy system had expressed concern about the current operation of the subsidy system.</i></p> <p><i>The current government, through continuing with the HRA Review started by the previous government appears to be acknowledging that the system is unfair. They also acknowledged that the current subsidy system was expensive for both central and local government to administer.]</i></p> <p>Cabinet Agenda Item 11 - Sustainable Community Strategy - 2008-18 Progress and Future Direction</p> <p>On page 166, SHP 10 - Increase sanctioned detection rate for serious acquisitive crime - Members asked for an explanation of what this task means?</p> <p>Under the paragraph "Consultation Carried Out or Required"</p>	<p><b>Action By:</b></p>
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	<p>on page 167, Members requested who were the key stakeholders who were consulted?</p> <p><i>[Subsequent to the meeting, officers provided the following response:</i></p> <p><i>SHP 10 - Increase sanctioned detection rate for serious acquisitive crime</i>  <i>The partnership had a number of interventions to reduce crime and this target concerned activity to increase the likelihood of offenders being identified and brought to justice thereby increasing the deterrence effect of enforcement.</i></p> <p><i>'Serious Acquisitive Crime' was a group of offences that included burglary, robbery, theft of and theft from motor vehicles. The 'sanctioned detection rate 'was the proportion of crimes where the offender had been identified and had been the subject of a judicial disposal which could be a formal warning, caution, penalty notice or prosecution in court (whether successful or otherwise). Although sanctioned detections were heavily dependant upon police work the Council does contribute, for example, through its CCTV camera operation.</i></p> <p><i>Key stakeholders consulted through-out the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy included:</i>  Age Concern UK  BAA  Brunel University  Chimes shopping centre  Groundwork Thames Valley  Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services  Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce  Job Centre Plus  NHS Hillingdon  Pavillion shopping centre  Pension Service  Police  Uxbridge College</p> <p><i>The priorities within the Sustainable Community Strategy were identified also drawing from:</i>  Residents Survey  Council Question Time events  Crime &amp; Disorder Survey  Housing Survey  Youth Council Conference</p> <p><i>The resulting list of priority areas was subject to wider public consultation including:</i>  survey/questionnaire in Hillingdon People and on Council website</p>	<p><b>Action By:</b></p>
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# Agenda Item 5

**TO CONSIDER THE CALL IN OF ANY DECISIONS MADE AT CABINET ON 15 JULY 2010 OR MADE BY CABINET MEMBERS, OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES OR A DELEGATED OFFICER AND PUBLISHED WITHIN FIVE WORKING DAYS OF THE MEETING.**

Contact Officer: Khalid Ahmed  
Telephone: 01895 250833

## **REASON FOR REPORT**

To provide information to Committee Members on their powers to call in decisions made by Cabinet, Cabinet Members and officers with delegated power from Cabinet.

## **OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE**

To note the contents of this report and use it to inform the process of, considering whether to request further information on decisions taken at Cabinet, or to approve the Call-in of decisions. If Members agree to Call-In an item, another formal meeting of the Committee will take place on the Tuesday (or the Thursday at the latest) of the following week after Cabinet, where relevant officers and the relevant Cabinet Member, if appropriate, will be invited to discuss the called-in item.

To hear any called in decisions made recently by Cabinet Members, other Council Committees or a delegated officer.

The options open to the Committee when considering a Called In decision is to:

- i. Refer it back to the decision-making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of the Committee's concerns, or
- ii. Refer the matter to full Council, but only in the circumstances set out in the rules of procedure (included earlier in this agenda and reports), or
- iii. Decide not to refer back the decision. If the Committee wishes, it may give advice or feedback to the decision-maker and/or officers.

## **INFORMATION**

### **Criteria and process for deciding a call-in**

1. Advisory criteria agreed by the Committee for deciding whether or not to call in a decision are attached in Annex 1. If a decision is called in, the criteria will be referred to in the call-in notification, to give reasons for the Committee's decision.
2. The advisory criteria may be amended at any time, if the Committee feels they do not adequately reflect the range of reasons for calling in decisions.
3. At this Committee's meeting on 2 June 2009 approval was given to an amendment to the rules of procedure relating to Call-Ins. These amendments were approved by Council at their meeting on 2 July 2009.

4. The purpose of this meeting is to enable Members to review the decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting which is taking place prior to this meeting and give consideration to the potential for call-ins of items.
5. On areas where Members request further information or clarification, officers will be asked to provide a response to the Committee queries by midday on the following Monday (19 July 2010).
6. These responses will be sent to Members of this Committee by email, and based on this information, Members will be asked to email or telephone Democratic Services on whether they are content with the information supplied or whether they recommend the calling –in of the particular item. The majority of the Committee Members will have to agree to the call-in request for it to proceed. The Chairman will then advise the Head of Democratic Services.
7. If an item is called in, another formal meeting of the Committee will take place on the Tuesday (or the Thursday at the latest) of the following week after Cabinet, where relevant officers and the relevant Cabinet Member, if appropriate, will be invited to discuss the called-in item.
8. Any Member of the Committee may also propose a decision for call in by contacting Democratic Services, the Chairman of the Committee or the lead representative of the majority party on the Committee. It is recommended that this is done either before the Cabinet meeting or within 2 working days of the Cabinet meeting in order to allow time for the Committee to be consulted before the deadline for considering the decision expires. Any proposals will be notified to the whole Committee for comment and agreement.

### **Cabinet agendas and decisions**

9. All Members of this Committee are on the mailing lists to receive printed copies of the Cabinet meeting agendas and decisions.

### **Education decisions**

10. Representative Members for Education on the Committee can only vote on education issues. They may speak on education and other matters.

### **Cabinet Members' and officers' decisions**

11. The Forward Plan lists planned Cabinet Members' decisions and may be used to guide scrutiny of Cabinet Members' decisions. All Members of this Committee also receive an e-mail copy of all requests for Cabinet Members' decisions. All Councillors receive e-mail copies of Cabinet Members' decisions when made, which may be published at any time. Call-in on these decisions can only take place within 5 working days of the decision being published.
12. As advised at the Committee's first meeting, Government Guidance states that day-to-day decisions by officers should be excluded from scrutiny. There is no central record of officers' delegated decisions. Cabinet Members are briefed on the more significant delegated decisions at Directors' briefing. Directorates should keep records of delegated decisions.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Annex 1 – Criteria for call-in as agreed at the first meeting of the Committee in 2006.

Members should bring their copies of the Cabinet agenda and decisions and the Forward Plan to the meeting.

## **SUGGESTED SCRUTINY ACTIVITY**

- Refer to the attached criteria when considering Cabinet decisions for call-in, noting those that are mandatory and those that are advisory.
- To review the decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting which is taking place prior to this meeting and to give consideration to the potential for call-ins of items as outlined in the Call-In procedure.
- If a vote is taken, Education representatives may only vote on items or elements of item reports concerning education
- Consider recent Cabinet Member decisions – decide whether to call-in any of these.

## **Annex 1 – Criteria for call-in agreed at the Executive Scrutiny Committee’s first meeting**

### **Mandatory**

- a. A majority of the Committee agrees to call-in the decision (this is required by the Constitution)

### **Advisory**

- b. The expenditure or savings resulting from the decision are £25,000 or greater (to stop trivial call-ins)

and one or more of the following:

- c. The recommendations that lead to the decision do not adequately reflect the evidence contained in the report.
- d. There is evidence that does not appear to have been considered in reaching the decision.
- e. There is a high level of public interest or concern, perhaps evidenced by many complaints or a petition to Councillors.
- f. The decision appears to be contrary to an Auditor’s or an Inspector’s recommendation.
- g. Cabinet has not accepted a recommendation from another O&S committee.