



HILLINGDON  
LONDON



## Executive Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** THURSDAY, 23  
SEPTEMBER 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

### Councillors on the Committee

Edward Lavery (Chairman)  
John Riley (Vice-Chairman)  
Mo Khursheed (Labour 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

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further information.**

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2010

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<http://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=236&MId=676&Ver=4>

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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 is 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 15 July 2010 (**Page 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 (**Pages 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

## Minutes

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 15 July 2010

Meeting held at Committee Room 7 - Civic Centre,  
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW



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	<p><b>Members Present:</b> Councillors John Riley (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Brian Crowe, John Hensley, Mo Khursheed, Anita MacDonald and Brian Stead.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Councillor Edward Lavery (Councillor John Hensley substituting). In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor John Riley, the Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting.</p> <p>Tony Little (Roman Catholic Diocesan Representative).</p> <p><b>Officer Present:</b> Mark Braddock (Senior Democratic Services Manager).</p>	
11.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Minutes of the meetings held on 24 June 2010</b></p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Exclusion of the press and public</b></p> <p>It was agreed that all items of business were considered in public.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Consideration of any Call-Ins of decisions made at the Cabinet meeting on 15 July 2010</b></p> <p>Members gave consideration to the Cabinet reports of 15 July 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><b><u>Cabinet Agenda Item 6 – Disabled People’s Plan 2009-2012 Update</u></b></p> <p>Referring to paragraph 9 - whilst accepting that Transport was a matter for Transport for London (TfL) and accessibility issues were dealt with through the Local Implementation Plan, the Committee asked for more clarification as to why Transport issues were not included in the Disabled People's Plan, given their importance to Disabled People.</p>	<p><b>Action By:</b></p>

<p>The Committee also made a general comment about the action plan to better demonstrate the good work done. It wished for the 'progress comments' boxes (or the action plan itself) to provide more details of the outcome and effectiveness of what had been achieved.</p> <p><i>[Subsequent to the meeting, officers provided the following response:</i></p> <p><i>“Transport issues are of great concern to disabled people and officers acknowledge this. However, the decision not to include any specific transport targets reflects the reality that the council does not have the power to deliver itself the changes that disabled people would like to see and that resources should therefore be focussed on what can be done. The Council's Mobility Forum, Transport Forum and Older People's and Disabled People's Assemblies continue to engage with Transport for London (TfL) to bring about improvements for disabled residents but this is an iterative process that often takes a time before changes can be seen on the ground. It should be noted that the national financial picture will have a significant impact on the speed with which improvements are likely to be delivered, especially as TfL has experienced cuts in its budget.</i></p> <p><i>The Committee's desire for more outcome and effectiveness information to be provided in future progress reports on the Disabled People's Plan is acknowledged.</i></p> <p><b><u>Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Council Budget – 2009/10 Revenue and Capital Outturn</u></b></p> <p>The Committee asked for further clarification on a couple of matters:</p> <p>a) The Committee would be interested to know where the £119k unspent earmarked reserve on the Leader's Initiative had been allocated to;</p> <p>b) And the reasons for the revenue underspend of £263k in community safety and £36k in planning and transportation.</p> <p><i>[Subsequent to the meeting, officers provided the following response:</i></p> <p><i>a) <b>Leaders initiative (Underspend of £119k)</b> - The underspend on the Leaders initiative budget has been carried forward as an earmarked balance into 2010/11.</i></p> <p><i>b) <b>Community Safety (underspend of £263k)</b> – Community Safety Fund budget (underspend of £162k) - Not fully allocated due to the need to be prudent in the financial climate and a lack of urgent funding requirements.</i></p>	<p><b>Action By:</b></p>
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	<p><i>The Community Safety staff budget (underspend of £41k) - This was due a combination of holding a part time vacancy, and not backfilling staff that were on maternity leave and sabbatical leave.</i></p> <p><i>Police Team Anti- Social Behaviour (ASB) (underspend of £30k) – The budget was based on the anticipated cost of the 12 police officers. However the actual costs charged were based on staff in post so resulted in a slight underspend. The budget also allowed for an inflation pay rise during the year which did not materialise due to public sector pay freeze.</i></p> <p><i>Non Refundable Metropolitan Police Grant (MPA) Grant (underspend of £20k) – unbudgeted grant applied to the service</i></p> <p><i>Communication budget (underspend of £10k) - There had been a level one priority campaign expected to run in March 2010, this was ended early due to unexpected communication activity from Met Police centrally, which allowed the Council to change strategy and reduce cost commitments to our own communications.</i></p> <p><b>Planning and Transportation (underspend of £36k) -</b></p> <p><i>S106/278 (underspend of £97k) - A change in the accounting treatment agreed with corporate finance in the way that S106 management fees are treated, has resulted in the transfer of the in year balances of S106 management fees previously held on the balance sheet, into the Group revenue position giving a one off benefit.</i></p> <p><i>Staffing – (underspend of £89k) –This was due to slippage on the recruitment of number of posts across the planning teams, resulting from the changes arising in the whole service review.</i></p> <p><i>Pre-applications fee income (pressure of £38k) – The actual income achieved was £106k against the budgeted target of £144k, the £38k unachieved income is due to adverse economic conditions that has also affected the main development control income streams.</i></p> <p><i>Appeals and other Legal disbursements (overspend £110k) – The overspend is due to legal counsel costs and other disbursements incurred due to various planning appeals.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved -</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the decisions made by Cabinet at their meeting on 15 July 2010 be endorsed and noted and no call-in be</li> </ol>	<p><b>Action By:</b></p>
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	made of any decision.  2. That officers be asked to provide responses to the issues outlined above.	<b>Action By:</b>  <b>Mark Braddock</b>
	<b>Meeting commenced at 7.40pm and closed at 8.25pm</b> <b>Next meeting: 23 September 2010 at 7.30pm or at the rising of Cabinet</b>	

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Khalid Ahmed on 01895 250833. Circulation of these minutes are to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.

# Agenda Item 5

**TO CONSIDER THE CALL IN OF ANY DECISIONS MADE AT CABINET ON 23 SEPTEMBER 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 (27 September 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.