



AGENDA ITEM: 12

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
28 JUNE 2012**

Report of: Borough Solicitor

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Directors

**Contact for further information: Mrs C A Jackson (Extn 5016)
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SUBJECT: CALL IN ITEM – HIGH STREET INNOVATION FUND

Wards affected: Borough wide.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the reason for the call in of the decision on the above item, as set out in Minute No. 15 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 12 June 2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee determines whether it wishes to ask for a different decision.

2.2 That if the Committee does wish to ask for a different decision, the Committee indicates which of the options set out at paragraph 5.1 below, it wishes to pursue.

3.0 DETAILS RELATING TO THE CALL IN

3.1 The report attached as an Appendix to this report was considered at a meeting of Cabinet on 12 June 2012.

3.2 The decision of Cabinet reads as follows:

“15. HIGH STREET INNOVATION FUND

Councillor Owens introduced the report of the Borough Treasurer which provided details of the above-mentioned new government grant fund.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

RESOLVED: That the Borough Treasurer in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder be authorised to take all necessary action to apply the High Street Innovation grant to the proposed uses set out in Section 4 of the report where feasible and appropriate.”

3.3 The following reason for call in was given in the requisition:

“Adding to the recommendation as follows:”
”

3.4 The requisition also provided a different decision which was:

That the Borough Treasurer, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, be authorised to ensure that the sum of £100,000 received for the High Street Innovation Grant is ring-fenced for the purposes described in Section 4 of the report and that the Council works towards maximising the potential of the funding by discussing with the Local Enterprise Partnership the possibility of matching this money with other programmes, therefore increasing its value.”

3.5 The following Members of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee signed the requisition for call-in in accordance with the provisions of Overview & Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 15:

Councillor Gagen
Councillor Fillis
Councillor Moran
Councillor Pendleton
Councillor Gibson

4.0 COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH TREASURER

4.1 It is intended that the £100,000 of grant funding that has been received will be fully utilised on developing the proposed schemes, and the budget details in the report reflect this position. The second bullet point of paragraph 4.2 of the report also sets out a principle that wherever possible match funding will be sought, and this will not just cover the Local Enterprise Partnership but any prospective partners. Consequently in my opinion the main reasons for the call in are already covered by the existing report and recommendations.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Following consideration of the decision of Cabinet, the requisition for call in and the comments of the Borough Treasurer, the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee can decide if it wishes to ask for a different decision. If the Committee does not wish to ask for a different decision then the decision of Cabinet takes

immediate effect. If the Committee does wish to ask for a different decision, it may:

- a. refer the decision back to Cabinet (as the decision making body) for reconsideration, setting out the different decision; or
- b. refer the matter to Council. If the matter is referred to Council and Council does not object, then the decision of Cabinet will take effect immediately from that Council meeting date. If the Council does object, then the decision and the objection will be referred back to Cabinet (as the decision making body) for reconsideration.

5.2 The Secretary of State in his Guidance recommends that Overview & Scrutiny Committees should only use the power to refer matters to the full Council if they consider that the decision is contrary to the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

Report of the Borough Treasurer