



AGENDA ITEM: 8

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
4 April 2013**

Report of: Borough Solicitor

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Directors

**Contact for further information: Mrs S Griffiths (Extn 5097)
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SUBJECT: CALL IN ITEM – TENANT’S CASH BACK SCHEME

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. 110 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 19 March 2013.

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 19 March 2013

3.2 The decision of Cabinet reads as follows:-

“110. TENANT’S CASH BACK SCHEME

Councillor Owens introduced the report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration which provided an update on the Government’s proposals for tenants involvement in the repair and maintenance of their homes, and advised on the outcome of consultations with the Tenant’s Task & Finish Group on the

introduction of a cash back scheme for the Council. Minute no. 46 of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) held on 13 March 2013 was circulated.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the minute of the Landlord Services Committee and the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

RESOLVED: A. That the report be noted.

B. That the suggestions made by the Tenant's Task & Finish Group be noted, and that a further report be submitted to Cabinet following the findings of the three pilot schemes referred to in the report."

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

"That the report should be scrutinised by the Corporate & Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee. As it is a policy decision that will have a wide spread implication."

3.4 The requisition also provided a different decision which was:

"Add to resolution B – That the report goes to Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee".

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 Fillis
Councillor Pendleton
Councillor J Hodson
Councillor Moran
Councillor Gagen

4.0 COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION

4.1 A further report will be submitted to Cabinet following the outcome of the 3 pilot schemes. So far the pilots have not demonstrated that this initiative has the wide spread support of tenants and the view of our involved tenants was that any scheme proposed should not receive direct payments for carrying out repairs. Until a proposed scheme is available to analyse, it is difficult to comment on the policy implications specifically.

4.2 Submitting the further report to both Cabinet and Corporate & Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee would not cause any significant delay, however reports to Cabinet, other than those prepared for performance

monitoring purposes, are normally dealt with by the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee, given that those meetings are tied into the Cabinet cycle.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Following consideration of the decision of Cabinet, the requisition for call in and the comments of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration, 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 Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration