
CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION
Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Capital Programme

CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY
COMMISSION - 8 July 2024
COUNCIL – 5 September 2024

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: V1

1. Summary

An Executive decision taken by the City Mayor on 28 May 2024 relating to continuation of Phase 4 and 5 capital works programme at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG) has been the subject of a 6 member call-in under the procedures at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules, of the Council's Constitution.

The procedure rules state that a scrutiny committee or any five councillors may request formally that the decision be called-in for a further review by giving notice in writing to the Monitoring Officer within five working days of the decision.

The six Councillors who signed the call in were: Councillor Porter (Proposer), Councillor Osman (Seconder), Councillor Adata, Councillor Kennedy-Lount, Councillor Kitterick, and Councillor Rae Bhatia.

2. Recommended actions/decision

The Commission is recommended to either:

- a) Note the report without further comment or recommendation. *(If the report is noted the process continues and the call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council);* or
- b) Comment on the specific issues raised by the call-in. *(If comments are made the process continues and the comments and call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council);* or
- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn *(If the committee wish for there to be no further action on the call-in, then they must actively withdraw it. If withdrawal is agreed the call-in process stops, the call-in will not be considered at a future meeting of Full Council and the original decision takes immediate affect without amendment).*

Council is recommended to either:

- a) Support the City Mayor's decision, and thus confirming the decision with immediate effect; or
- b) Recommend a different decision to the City Mayor. (The original decision will still stand, unless the City Mayor takes a further decision to amend the original.)

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

The decision was not considered with a scrutiny commission prior to the decision being made.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

The Executive Decision Report and Decision Notice are attached at Appendix A and Appendix B.

5. Detailed report

The call-in submitted to the Monitoring Officer was in the following terms:

“We, the undersigned, wish to 'Call-in' the decision to spend £3.6 million on a new café at the New Walk Museum. Despite the council being in a truly diabolical financial state, the Labour leadership still appears determined to waste millions of pounds of taxpayers cash on ill-conceived vanity projects.

Most sensible people would agree with us when we say that a new council café is NOT a priority; especially as the council is on the brink of bankruptcy and cannot even afford to support the adventure playgrounds or Send transport. The Labour council must stop wasting public money on unnecessary projects like this proposed new café. There was a perfectly good café at the museum but the council shut it down.

Before a penny is spent, this £3.6 million proposal must undergo proper consultation and scrutiny.”

The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the call-in satisfies the requirements of the procedure rules and it has, therefore, proceeded as per the process set out at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.

Where a call-in has been made, officers are to take no further legally binding action, unless the circumstances of Rule 12 (f) are fulfilled, and the matter shall be referred to a meeting of the full Council. Prior to this it shall be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee if one is programmed or a special scrutiny committee if one is convened.

The call-in may however be withdrawn if:

The relevant scrutiny committee/commission makes a resolution to withdraw; or

The sponsor and seconder of the call-in inform the Monitoring Officer that they wish the call-in to be withdrawn.

Following consideration of a call-in by Full Council, the original decision will be deemed to be revived in its entirety. Any agreement by the decision maker to change the original decision will require a further formal Executive Decision.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the call-in in addition to those in the decision report.

Kirsty Cowell, Head of Finance, Ext. 37 2377

6.2 Legal implications

The legal implications arising from the call-in are explained in sections 2 and 5 above

Kamal Adataia, Monitoring Officer, Extn 37 1401

6.3 Equalities implications

There are no comments in addition to those in the decision report.

Kalvaran Sandhu, Equalities Manager, Extn 37 6344

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no further climate emergency implications to those provided in the decision report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

7. Background information and other papers:

None

8. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A Executive Decision Report – Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Capital Programme dated 28 May 2024

Appendix B Decision Notice - Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Capital Programme dated 28 May 2024

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No