
CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION
Budget Savings

OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE – 14 December 2023
COUNCIL – 21 March 2024

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Useful information

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

1. Summary

An Executive decision taken by the City Mayor on 24 November 2023 relating to in-year budget savings has been the subject of a six-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 Kitterick (Proposer), Councillor Bajaj (Secunder), Councillor Porter, Councillor Westley, Councillor Sahu, and Councillor Gregg

2. Recommended actions/decision

The Overview Select Committee 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- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn *(If the committee wish for there to be no further action on the call-in, then they must actively withdraw it.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 considered at the Overview Select Committee on 9 November 2023,

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 parts of the Executive Decision in regard to cuts in budgets {Headlined BUDGET SAVINGS}.

We are content for some of the savings to be agreed but have concerns about the following matters and their impact on the people of Leicester

<i>Restructuring of the provision of Waste Services</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Reduced expenditure on Parks & Open Spaces</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>339</i>	<i>339</i>
<i>Efficiency savings within Regulatory Services</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>Additional income within Bereavement & EBS</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>194</i>
<i>Efficiency Savings from Street Cleansing</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>180</i>

In particular we note that none of these cuts appear to have been examined by the relevant Scrutiny Committee

In terms of some of the other items where substitute funding has been indicated that may well be fine but would require re-assurance that this alternative funding is actually in place before agreeing to the reduction in budget, in terms of the Enablement Service we would wish to examine the impact of any review.

<i>Alternative funding arrangements for CAMHS support</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>155</i>
<i>Alternative funding arrangements for Domestic Abuse service</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>252</i>
<i>Enablement services - Organisational Review</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>400</i>
<i>Total Social Care and Education savings</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>807</i>	<i>807</i>

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

The Council is under significant financial pressure, and the savings have been included in the provisional General Fund Budget for 2024/25. If any of these savings are not to progress this will impact negatively on future budgets.

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 Adatia, 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 – Budget Savings dated 24 November 2023

Appendix B Decision Notice - Ash Field Academy Residential Provision dated 24 November 2023

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