



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES &
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION
COUNCIL**

**13 MARCH 2018
22 MARCH 2018**

**CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION –
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES GRANT FUNDING**

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Executive decision taken by the Assistant City Mayor – Neighbourhood Services on 29 January 2018 relating to Neighbourhood Services Grant Funding has been the subject of a five member call-in under the procedures at Rule 12 of Part 4D, (City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules), of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The five Councillors who signed the call in were: Councillor Waddington (proposer), Councillor Riyait (seconder), Councillor Kitterick, Councillor Willmott and Councillor Chaplin.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny 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 Council on 22 March 2018); 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 Council on 22 March 2018); or*

- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn (*If the committee wishes for there to be no further action on the call-in, then it must actively withdraw it. If withdrawal is agreed the call-in process stops, the call-in will not be considered at Council on 22 March and the original decision takes immediate affect without amendment*).

2.2 Council is recommended to either:

- a) Support the Assistant City Mayor – Neighbourhood Services’ decision, thus confirming the decision with immediate effect; or
- b) Recommend a different decision to the Assistant City Mayor – Neighbourhood Services. (The original decision will still stand, unless the Assistant City Mayor takes a further decision to amend the original.)

3. REPORT

3.1 Process

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

“We are calling in this decision because there has been no consultation with the City Councillors whose wards and/or areas of interest are relevant to the organisations listed in the decision.

The impact of the cuts to the budgets of these organisations to local neighbourhoods and communities has not been considered by, or discussed with, the relevant City Councillors”

3.1.2 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.

3.1.3 Where a call-in has been made, officers are to take no further legally binding action 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.

3.1.4 The call-in may however be withdrawn if:

- The decision maker and the relevant scrutiny committee (or via the Monitoring Officer, the scrutiny committee chair and vice chair unanimously) come to an agreement;
- The relevant scrutiny committee 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.

3.1.5 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.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 Further officer advice relating to the issues raised by the call-in is attached at Appendix A.

3.2.2 The relevant decision notice and report are attached at Appendix B.

4. **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. **Financial Implications**

Refer to implications in decision report Appendix B

4.2 **Legal Implications**

It is confirmed that no legally binding action has or will be taken during this period.

The existing grant agreements expire on 31st March 2018 and new funding agreements will need to be completed before grant funding payments can be made from 1st April 2018 to avoid a delay in payment to the 7 voluntary organisations in the new financial year. The agreements allow the Council to terminate these agreements and any grant payments by giving 3 months' written notice.

Jenis Taylor, Principal Solicitor (Commercial) Ext 37-1405

4.3 **Climate Change**

Members should refer to the climate change implications at 5.3 in the original report (Appendix B2). The call-in does not affect the implications.

Duncan Bell, Senior Environmental Consultant, Ext 37-2249

5. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within the Report
Equal Opportunities	Y	See Annex 1 to Appendix B2
Policy	N	
Sustainable and Environmental	N	

Crime and Disorder	N	
Human Rights Act	N	
Elderly/People on Low Income	N	
Corporate Parenting	N	
Health Inequalities Impact	N	

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

6.1 See the report at Appendix B2

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Initial meetings between the seven organisations and the Council's Service Analysis Team took place between October – December 2016.

7.2 Neighbourhood Services officers undertook engagement work with all seven organisations between May and September 2017.

8. REPORT AUTHOR

8.1 Elaine Baker, Democratic Support Officer
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Appendix A

Further officer advice relating to the issues raised by the call-in

- 1.1 Although the decision to review the funding for these groups has been reserved to the Council's Executive, the councillors' concern regarding their consultation is noted. Any points made by Members at the Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny Commission will be reported back.
- 1.2 The background to this decision is that the seven Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations have received grant funding from the city council for a number of years. The organisations were previously funded by the Council's Community Services and are now funded by Neighbourhood Services following an organisational review.
- 1.3 These budgets fall within the Council's Transforming Neighbourhood Services (TNS) spending review. A total savings target of £1.7m was set for Neighbourhood Services in 2013. The target is based on a 30% reduction of the baseline budget in 2012/13.
- 1.4 The current grant agreements were made with the organisations in August and September 2015. The first stated purpose of the agreement with each organisation was "to establish an approach towards self-sustainability". It is important to recognise therefore that the journey towards self-sustainability is a long understood position which officers have been seeking to support the organisations on.
- 1.5 The current grant agreements expire in March 2018. The decision report outlines a decision to renew Leicester City Council grant funding, at a reduced rate, from April 2018 for a further year.
- 1.6 The TNS programme was scoped with the close involvement of Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission in 2013. A savings target of 30% amounting to £1.7 million was agreed across the combined neighbourhoods' budget. Regular summary updates have been submitted regarding spending reviews across the neighbourhoods' portfolio and including TNS.
- 1.7 A significant amount of work has been undertaken with all seven organisations building on the stated purpose of the grant agreements to work towards self-sustainability. Work to support each organisation with the development of sustainable financial plans for 2018-19, is as follows:
 - a) In depth service assessments were undertaken with each of the groups between September – December 2016 with visits and service assessments by the Council's Service Analysis Team. Final reports with recommendations were agreed and issued in May and June 2017.
 - b) Neighbourhood Services officers have been working together with the organisations since May 2017 to agree new funding for the next financial

year, April 2018. A series of 17 meetings were held with the seven organisations during this period.

c) The organisations have been offered independent support to help review business plans which some have already taken up. Each organisation has produced and submitted its own financial plan for the next year incorporating a reduction in grant funding.

1.8 Reports were taken to the Executive prior to consulting with the organisations on 30th March 2017 and, following the submission of financial plans by the organisations, on 3rd November 2017.

1.9 The plans submitted by the organisations form the basis of the Council's decision. It is recognised that each organisation is different and a flexible approach has been taken with regard to the agreements for the coming year to ensure services can continue to be delivered in a sustainable way.

Lee Warner, Head of Neighbourhood Services