

We the undersigned request scrutiny call in the following decision made by cabinet on Tuesday, 28th July 2015:

Item 10: Parks & Open Spaces maintenance Standards

We believe the decision was made without due regard to all material considerations, namely:

- No financial figures were presented to the meeting corresponding to the different levels of service.
- Neither Cabinet nor officers justified which sites were chosen to be serviced at which level. This was done without the input of ward councillors or residents.

We further believe that inadequate consultation was made with the public or ward members before this trial was put in place.

Furthermore, such a trial, which is a material departure from present council policy, should have been subject to a formal, public decision by cabinet before it was implemented.

We therefore believe that the decision taken contravenes the council's constitution which embeds the following principles to decision-making:-

- due regard to all relevant considerations and disregard of all irrelevant factors;
- a presumption in favour of openness;
- the ability to explain the options considered and the reasons for decisions.

Signed by Councillors

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Hawthorn
Palmerman
Andrew Martin
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Wednesday, 31st July, 2015

Guide to Call-In

The **Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee** is meeting on 20 August 2015 to consider a call-in of a decision made by Cabinet on the 28 July 2015.

What is call-in?

Call-in is a scrutiny process established through national legislation. When decisions are taken by the Cabinet, they cannot be implemented for five working days. The call-in procedure allows councillors who are not on the Cabinet to request a review of a decision thereby delaying the implementation of that decision.

The call-in procedure is only used in exceptional circumstances, as a measure of last resort, and it is a means by which councillors may demand scrutiny of a decision they believe to be contrary to the Council's decision making principles. Scrutiny provides an independent review of a decision about which councillors have concerns.

Why is there a call-in?

24 councillors have submitted notice that they wish to call-in a decision taken by the Cabinet on 28 July 2015 the Parks & Open Spaces Maintenance Standards. The grounds of the call-in are set out in the call-in notice.

What will happen at the call-in?

Members of the Overview & Scrutiny chaired by Cllr Julie Stewart-Turner will hear evidence from Cabinet members on the rationale for the decision and from councillors concerned about the decision. The meeting will start at 10:00am and is expected to last until mid afternoon. A more detailed timetable is available separately, which outlines the procedure for the call-in.

What will the Panel be considering?

The Panel are going to consider the grounds set out within the call-in notice. The panel will consider all the evidence submitted both at the hearing and in writing and then come to a balanced view.

Can members of the public attend?

Yes, the Panel meeting will be held in public in Huddersfield. The meeting will also be webcast and available to view on the Council's website.

Can I participate?

At the Chair's discretion, members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting. Members of the public, or spokespersons for pressure groups, are invited to give evidence to the Panel and there is a specific slot allocated for this during the late morning. Evidence should be relevant to the reasons set out in the call-in notice.

Each member of the public has a maximum of 5 minutes to present their evidence.

Can I ask a question?

No, only members of the Panel may ask questions. You should focus on giving evidence relevant to the call-in.

Do I need to give notice that I wish to speak?

Anyone wishing to give evidence is encouraged to give notice of this. You should contact Jenny Bryce-Chan at the Legal & Governance Office to register that you wish to speak. Please ring 221000.

I can't attend the meeting, but would still like my views to be heard

Members of the public can submit written information for consideration by the Panel in advance of the meeting. This can be sent to Governance & Democratic Services, Civic Centre 3, High Street, Huddersfield HD1 2TG, or emailed to scrutiny.governance@kirklees.gov.uk by noon on Monday 17 August 2015.