

Reasons for Call-In

Policy Development Groups, Transport Working Party and Health and Wellbeing Board

- The report dated 26th February 2015 – Principles of Overview and Scrutiny (an independent report assisted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny) has been rejected by the Mayor. This is in spite of the fact that it was passed by an overwhelming majority of the full Council. Following the independent report and the election, officers have worked hard to try and find how the recommendation could be integrated into the way the Council and Mayor make their decisions. It was subsequently, after the election, discussed at a Majority Group meeting with agreement that the findings on the report and officer recommendation should be implemented. Having been passed at full Council and had the approval of the majority of Councillors following the election the new arrangements should be returned for debate by all Members if rejected by the Mayor.
- In the report taken to Council it states:- ‘The directly elected Mayor holds all executive powers – it is, therefore, important for credibility and reputation of the Council’s governance system that there are transparent checks and balances.’ The new PDG system gives even more power to the Mayor: there is a heavy presence of Executive Leads on the PDGs, the agendas will be set with no input from O&S, the independent advice is to have O&S chairing the meetings. The decision is that the new arrangements will last for four years with no period for review.
- In the Decision- Making Route there is no consultation with the Majority Group or Group Leaders. There is no mention of how a decision is fast tracked – who makes that decision, again no mention of involvement of O&S in that decision. In previous fast tracked flow charts there has been consultation involved, this has now been omitted.
- The Centre for Public Scrutiny calls for all Members to work together for the good of the Council. We do not agree that the new PDGs are the best way forward to achieve this and that there are alternatives that need to be agreed by all Members..