
REVIEW OF CALL-IN PROTOCOL

To: **Constitutional Review Working Party – 25 August 2010**

Main Portfolio Area: Democratic Services

By: **Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **N/A**

Summary: The report seeks the views of the Constitutional Review Working Party regarding the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to review the current Thanet District Council Call-In Protocol.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel indicated in their work programme for the 2010/11 municipal year that they would like the Call-In protocol reviewed. At the 20 July 2010 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel "Members Agreed that a request to review the current call-in system be referred to the Constitutional Review Working Party."

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 The current rules for Members to request a call in of an executive decision are as follows:

"The proper officer shall call-in a decision for scrutiny by the Committee if so requested in writing (including e-mail) specifying the decision in question with a brief statement of reasons for the call-in by the Chairman or any five members of the Committee (who shall not all be from the same political group), and shall then notify the decision-taker in writing of the call-in. "

2.2 Officers can carry out a review of the Council's rules surrounding the call-in process if it is the wish of the Constitutional Review Working Party.

2.3 Such a review would evaluate the Council's scheme against the schemes of our neighbouring East Kent authorities and best practice from the Centre for Public Scrutiny. It would produce a series of options that could be then put to the working party for it to decide whether merit in considering whether to change the Council's call-in procedures.

2.4 It would be expected that the review would be completed and presented to a future meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party by the end of the calendar year.

3.0 Options

3.1 The Constitutional Review Working Party can choose to instruct officers to carry out a review of the call in process,

3.2 The Constitutional Review Working Party can choose not to instruct officers to carry out a review of the call in process.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

4.1.1 There are no financial implications.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 The Council is required by Section 22 of the Local Government Act 2000 to allow for the possibility of Calling-In decisions of the Cabinet that have been made but not implemented.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 The Council's Call In procedures fits with the Modern Council theme of the Council's Corporate Plan.

4.4 Equity and Equalities

4.4.1 None Apparent

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 The working party's instructions are requested.

Meeting: Constitutional Review Working Party	Date: 25 August 2010
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Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Reporting to:	Glenn Back, Democratic and Scrutiny Manager

Annex List

<i>None</i>	
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
<i>None</i>	

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Sarah Martin, Financial Services Manager
Legal	Harvey Patterson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer