
REVIEW OF CALL-IN PROTOCOL

To: **Constitutional Review Working Party – 11 November 2010**

Main Portfolio Area: **Democratic Services**

By: **Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **N/A**

Summary: **The report sets out evidence of current practice relating to Call-In as requested by the Constitutional Review Working Party at its meeting on 25 August 2010.**

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 to review the Call-In protocol. The 25 August 2010 meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party instructed officers to present the Working Party with examples of alternative Call-In procedures from other East Kent Councils and the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 The current rules for Members to request a call in of an executive decision are set out in Annex 1 together with outlines of the schemes run by the other authorities in East Kent.

2.2 Representatives from the Centre for Public Scrutiny have confirmed that there is no common scheme recommended by them regarding Call-In and that countrywide all schemes are slightly different. However, attached at Annex 2 is list of things that the Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests that should be considered when reviewing the Call-In process.

2.3 Annex 3 is Thanet District Council's current Call-In protocol for ease of reference.

3.0 Options

3.1 The Constitutional Review Working Party can recommend to Standards Committee and to Full Council changes to the Call In protocol. If it wishes to do so, it may be useful for the Panel to indicate to officers the kinds of changes in the protocol that are desired so that a draft revised protocol can be developed, either for referral back to this Working Party or submission to Standards Committee.

3.2 The Constitutional Review Working Party can choose not to make any recommendations to amend the existing Call In protocol.

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 Executive 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.

6.0 Decision Making Process

6.1 If the Constitutional Review Working Party recommends any changes to the Call In procedure then they would be recommended to the Standards Committee.

Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
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Annex List

Annex 1	Comparison of Call In methodologies
Annex 2	Advice from the Centre for Public Scrutiny
Annex 3	Thanet District Council's current Call in Policy

Background Papers

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

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	<i>N/A</i>
Legal	<i>Harvey Patterson, Head of Legal & Democratic Services</i>