

By: Peter Sass: Head of Democratic Services
To: Scrutiny Committee – 12 February 2014
Subject: New Combined Member Grant Scheme – 13/00088
(Revision of 13/00062)

Summary: Notification of a call-in of decision number 13/00088 was received from Mr C Caller, Mrs T Dean and Mr R Latchford on 31 January 2014. This report sets out the reasons behind the call-in and sets out the options for the Scrutiny Committee.

1. Background

1.1 On 23rd January 2014 the Leader took a decision to introduce a single Member Grant Scheme consisting of £25k per Member (£2.1m in total) and to cease the following grant schemes:

- Member Grants
- Local Schemes Grant
- Capital Scheme Grants
- Member Highway Fund

The new Member Grant Scheme will take effect from 1 April 2014.

2. Reasons justifying the call-in – from Mr C Caller, Mrs T Dean and Mr R Latchford.

2.1 The record of decision does not confirm that the Leader had knowledge of or regard to the comments made at both Cabinet Committees where it was shown to be of serious concern to Members – in addition the Leader was not present at either committee. Appendix 4 part 6, paragraph 6.36 (f) states that the record of decision should include “any comment received when the matter was considered at the cabinet committee”. Although no formal comments were made, the spirit of that rule means that the fact that the Committee’s support was not unanimous should have been clearly stated. In addition, the details of the vote taken at the Environment Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee should have been set out. This would be in line with 7.15 (d) of acceptable reasons for call-in

2.2 That a proposed record of decision was not published to all Members only having been included in the relevant Cabinet Committee papers, but as this affects all members, due consultation was not undertaken, therefore not in line with Article 12 (2) and meeting call-in criteria 7.15 (c)

2.3 That additional consultation should have taken place, over and above Cabinet Committees – criteria as above (Article 12 (2) and 7.15 (c))

3. Witnesses

3.1 Mr M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Mr D Brazier, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment will attend the meeting to answer Members' questions on this item.

4. Options for the Scrutiny Committee

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee may:

(a) make no comments

(b) express comments but not require reconsideration of the decision

(c) require implementation of the decision to be postponed pending reconsideration of the matter by the decision-maker in the light of the Committee's comments or;

(d) if the decision is deemed to be contrary to the Policy Framework or Budget, require implementation of the decision to be postponed pending consideration of the matter by the full Council.

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