

Call-in Request for Executive Decision 25/00004 – Council Tax Collection Subsidies and Incentives

Call request submitted by: Mr Rich Lehmann & Mr Alister Brady

Reason for calling in the decision: The decision was not taken in accordance with the principles of decision-making set out in 8.5(d) a presumption in favour of openness.

During the debating of this item at the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee meeting on 5th March 2025, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services repeatedly stated that the decision 'had already been made by Full Council' and also asserted that bringing it to the Committee was a 'formality'.

After the accuracy of this statement was questioned by members of the committee, the monitoring officer confirmed that the decision had not yet been taken. Shortly after this, the Cabinet Member continued to state the decision had been taken, giving the appearance of trying to shut down further scrutiny of the decision by the committee.

One member of the committee put forward a recommendation to consider an alternative which had the potential to reduce the council's financial risk attached to the decision. Despite this recommendation being seconded, the member was asked by the chair of the meeting to withdraw the recommendation. This was in contravention of the recommendation in the report on this item in the meeting's agenda, and we believe it was also in contravention of 8.5(d) of the constitution.

Also in contravention of paragraph 8.5(d), the committee was not given enough information regarding the potential impact of this decision, such as the fact that the report in the agenda which went to the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee meeting did not fully outline the level of risk (£30m) which was included in the budget papers.

Desired outcome of this call-in:

We request that the Scrutiny Committee recommends that the implementation of the decision to be postponed pending review or scrutiny of the matter by the full Council.