

ITEM NO: 10

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: SUMMARY OF THE USE OF THE CALL-IN PROCEDURE AND INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION IN THE CORPORATE ASSESSMENT REPORT		
DATE OF DECISION:	16 TH JANUARY 2008		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

SUMMARY

This report provides the Council with a summary of the use of the call-in procedure over the last 3 months. It also provides an opportunity to report the outcomes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee's initial discussion on the Audit Commission's conclusion that the Council should enhance the support provided for its scrutiny function "to drive improvement through policy development work and to provide a greater emphasis on user-focused challenge."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the report be noted.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Part 4 of the Constitution, which relates to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, requires the use of call-in to be reported to Council on a quarterly basis.

CONSULTATION

2. This report is a regular item which summarises the use of, and outcomes from, the call-in procedure during the previous three months.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. None

DETAIL

4. Paragraph 12.29 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules requires Full Council to receive a report every quarter on the use of the call-in procedure.
5. Two executive decisions have been called-in since the previous quarterly

update report to Full Council. The details of these call-ins and the outcomes resulting from the call-in meetings are summarised below.

A: CAB0045-SEPTEMBER03- Introduction of Immobilisation & Towing Away of Vehicles

Reasons given for the call-in:

1. Failure to notify the relevant Scrutiny Panel of the proposals.
2. Failure to provide adequate information to Members.
3. Failure to provide adequate information to the public.

Recommendations from the call-in meeting:

That the Cabinet Member reconsiders the decision at the next Cabinet meeting, as the Scrutiny Panel is of the opinion that it is necessary to allow for the formulation of the implementation policy, including appropriate consultation with all interested parties (including the Scrutiny Panel) prior to the invitation of tenders.

Subsequent decision of the Cabinet:

This matter is currently scheduled for consideration by the Cabinet on the 21st January 2008.

B: ET02498A CONCESSIONARY FARES 2008/09

Reasons given for the call-in:

1. The reduction in entitlement to concessionary fares for senior citizens in Southampton in comparison to the current scheme.
2. The unquantified impact on hospital appointments for senior citizens living in Southampton.
3. Adverse impacts on Southampton residents currently in receipt of concessionary fares with a disability living allowance.

Recommendations from the call-in meeting:

- (i) That the Scrutiny Panel welcomes and supports the introduction of a national minimum scheme for concessionary fares starting at 9.30 Monday to Friday and supports the requirement for Cabinet to make a decision on this element at its meeting on 29th November.
- (ii) That the Cabinet be requested to re-consider the remaining elements of decision ET024898A for the following reasons:-
 - a. The Scrutiny Panel is of the view that that the Cabinet or the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport should produce a costed extra local scheme for those disabled people in the City excluded from the national scheme for

concessionary travel but currently in the local scheme before the meeting of the Council scheduled for 16th January 2008.

- b. The Scrutiny Panel requests that the Cabinet or the Cabinet Member should produce a costed extra scheme for elderly residents in the city excluded by the national scheme for concessionary travel within the city but currently in the local scheme before the meeting of the Council scheduled for 16th January 2008.
 - c. The Scrutiny Panel is of the opinion that there is a need to clarify the costs estimated in the current administration budget proposals for savings to be delivered by restricting travel to the criteria of the national scheme in comparison to the existing local scheme currently available to Southampton residents and requests that these clarified costings should be circulated to all members of the Council within 2 weeks.
- (iii) That the Scrutiny Panel believes further representations should be made to the government on the need for any new scheme to be fully funded by central government.

Subsequent decision of the Cabinet:

Cabinet resolved to re-affirm its previous decision taking into account Scrutiny recommendations (i), (ii)(a) and (iii) outlined above with additional reasons being given for the decision following the Scrutiny Panel and Bus User Group meeting.

The additional reasons cited for the decision over and above those contained within the original report were:

- (i) Cabinet has considered the Equality Impact representation received following full Council and at Scrutiny. Cabinet is satisfied that it has fully considered the Equalities implications of its decision and is satisfied that no direct discrimination arises out of this decision. While it is acknowledged that the move to the national scheme may result in some form of indirect discrimination by way of reduction of some areas of enhanced entitlement, this will be justified in accordance with Equalities legislation on resource and affordability grounds and is wholly in accordance with the emerging national criteria for eligibility.
- (ii) We have also taken into account the views expressed by the Bus User Group

Initial Response by the OSMC to the Corporate Assessment Report

6. At its meeting on 21st November 2007, Full Council referred the four recommendations contained within the Audit Commission's report on the

Corporate Assessment to the Standards and Governance Committee for consideration. The Standards and Governance Committee met on 3rd December 2007 and resolved that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee should be asked to submit recommendations to Full Council to address the issue raised within the Corporate Assessment about the need to enhance “the support provided for its scrutiny functions to drive improvement through policy development work and to provide a greater emphasis on user-focused challenge.”

7. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will be initially considering this matter at its meeting on 10th January 2008. The schedule for the production of reports for the January Council meeting means it has not been possible to include the outcomes from that meeting within this report. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will therefore provide a verbal update of the discussion and outcomes from the 10th January meeting at Full Council.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

8. None

Revenue

9. None

Property

10. None

Other

11. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

12. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

13. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

14. None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

	None

Documents In Members' Rooms

	None

Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the
Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule
12A allowing document to be
Exempt/Confidential (if
applicable)

	None	

Background documents available for inspection at: Not Applicable

FORWARD PLAN No: Not Applicable **KEY DECISION?** No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly
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