

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL			
SUBJECT:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: SUMMARY OF CALL-IN ACTIVITY			
DATE OF DECISION:	18 MAY 2016			
REPORT OF:	SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE			
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>				
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report provides the Council with a summary of the use of the Call-in procedure since 1st September 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) That the report be noted.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council's Constitution requires the use of Call-in to be reported to Council on a half yearly basis.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. One executive decision has been called-in since the previous update report to Full Council. The details of the Call-in and the outcomes resulting from the Call-In meeting are summarised in this report.
4. **CAB 15/16 15193 - The Future of the Southampton Library Service**

Reasons given for the Call-in:

- Cabinet hasn't given a full and adequate response to the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and has not taken account of, or acted upon, specific recommendations in that there is a lack of clarity around seeking alternative funding options, such as shared services, procurement and the HRA.

Recommendations from the Call-in meeting:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considered the item at

its meeting on 10th September 2015. Following discussion with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Leisure the Committee recommended that Cabinet reconsider the decision at the next decision meeting. The following points were sought to be addressed by Cabinet if, at the meeting on 15 September 2015, Cabinet confirm the decision taken on 18 August:

- A. that Cabinet commit to ensure flexibility within timescales for community led initiatives to be established within the six libraries should formal arrangements not be in place by 31 March 2016;
- B. that, to enable effective scrutiny, Cabinet clarifies the timetable and the process for the establishment of community led libraries;
- C. that Cabinet identifies the financial support the Housing Revenue Account would be able to provide in relation to the Library Service;
- D. that Cabinet provide details, including outcomes, of discussions that had taken place with other local authorities regarding sharing library services;
- E. that, due to the change in location and increased usage since the consultation commenced, Cabinet review the position in relation to Millbrook Library; and
- F. that a confidential briefing be provided to Members ahead of Full Council on the Expressions of Interest received on the Library Service.

5. Following the Call-in, Cabinet reconsidered the decision taken on 18th August 2015, taking into account recommendations put forward by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 10th September 2015, as follows:

- (i) Response to recommendation A above - Some flexibility could be permitted, however the savings figure identified is based on the council ceasing to provide a service from these libraries by the 31st March 2016.
- (ii) Response to recommendation B above - The detailed timescale will be clarified once a decision has been taken. If a decision is taken on 15th September, the timescale would be as follows:

Week beginning 21 st September 2015	Information Packs Available
7 th October	Question and Answer Session Also an opportunity to meet other organisations interested with a view to developing partnerships
19 th October	Deadline for Expressions of Interest
9 th November or earlier	Organisations advised if they are to be given the opportunity to progress to the next stage.
18 th January 2016	Deadline for Stage 2 documents to be submitted
8 th February 2016	Confirm successful organisations

19 th February 2016	Deadline for signing of lease and partnership agreement in order to begin shadow period
1 March 2016	Opportunity for community groups to shadow Library Service Staff
1 April 2016	Community Group Lease to commence

- (iii) Response to recommendation C above - As previously advised, the HRA cannot support the core costs of the library service. HRA funding must be used only for the benefit of its tenants. The concept of providing support to help people get online, is something that the HRA could support, given the importance of digital skills. This kind of activity also has the option of being supported by National Lottery funding in association with a community group. Housing officers will be pursuing this project.
- (iv) Response to recommendation D above - Officers have met with officers from Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and IOW on 8 occasions to examine opportunities for joint working, share progress on library transformation projects and establish if any opportunities existed for integration. Whilst dialogue continues, no proposals for integration have yet been made, with projects continuing in different timelines.
It should be noted that integration with other authorities cannot provide any guarantee of maintaining service levels and delivery models. Both Hampshire and IOW for example are currently engaged in community libraries, and service rationalisation.
- (v) Response to recommendation E above - Whilst the use has increased, this is not significant enough for the position in relation to Millbrook Library to change. For the period from April to the end of July 2015 in the new location the Millbrook Library still has the lowest numbers of Issues, visitors and sessions of computer use.
- (vi) Response to recommendation F above - This is being provided, subject to discussion with the Leader and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

Cabinet confirmed their decision taken on 18th August, 2015.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

6. None

Property/Other

7. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

8. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

9. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

10. None.

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

	None
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Documents In Members' Rooms

	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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