

<b>3 July 2012</b>		<b>ITEM 2</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>CALL-IN TO CABINET DECISION 01104107 – EARLY OFFER OF HELP AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND COMMISSIONING</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b> Councillor Oliver Gerrish, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Social Care		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Carmel Littleton, Head of Learning and Universal Outcomes and Barbara Foster, Head of Care and Targeted Outcomes		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Jo Olsson, Director of People Services		
<b>This report is</b> public		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To summarise the call-in made to cabinet decision 01104107, including outlining the options available to the committee when considering it.		

Comment [s]: Please leave this for completion by Democratic Services

Comment [s]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the name of the Committee you are reporting to (in font 16, not capitals)

Comment [sj]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the title of your report (in font 16 and in capitals) – a Cabinet Report should be consistent with the wording on the Forward Plan – see Guidelines 2.3

Comment [s]: Please state the name of the Cabinet Member and the Portfolio to which the report refers

Comment [s]: Please enter details of any Wards and Communities affected by the report. If this section is not

Comment [s]: Yes/No/Not Applicable – a 'Key Decision' is generally one affecting more than 2 wards or above £50,000

Comment [sj]: Please state the Head of Service's name and job title

Comment [sj]: Please state Director's name and job title

Comment [sj]: State whether your report is Public or Exempt. If Exempt (i.e. not to be given to the public or discussed in

Comment [sj]: Briefly set out the purpose of your report

Comment [sj]: Please provide a summary of the key points in your report

Comment [s]: The recommendations should be set out in bold in the form of the decision that the decision-

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report outlines the call-in made to the above cabinet decision, highlighting the reasons why the call-in was made and the alternative proposals being put forward. This report offers advice to the committee on how to manage the call-in through the committee process and should be used as a summary document to help understand the overview of this particular call-in.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1.1 The Committee can either:**

- a) **If it is concerned about the original decision in light of the call-in, refer it back to Cabinet for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns.**
- b) **If it considers the decision is contrary to the Budget or Policy Framework, refer the matter to the Council.**
- c) **Reject the call-in stating the reasons why.**

**2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

Comment [s]: You should briefly explain why the report is on the agenda - See para. 5.3 and 5.4 of the report writing guidelines.

2.1 On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 Councillor James Halden, seconded by Councillor Mark Coxshall and Andrew Roast, called in cabinet decision 01104107 on the basis that:

- “The Early Offer of Help strategy outlines how it has extrapolated the 3000 families that it wishes to target in areas of deprivation. Due consideration has not been given to the fact that deprivation is not one blanket term and that communities are not so formulaic that a ‘one size fits all’ approach can be applied. As a result of the sweeping terms and assumptions made we also doubt the projection of 3000 families.
- The Strategy references the fact that the local authority will become the single point of contact for a multi agency approach to early help. However, they have not listed, if any, communications with some of the major leaders in these communities, for example, faith, voluntary or the private sector. While this did go to Overview and Scrutiny in February 2012, we feel that a final report that did not change much from the draft stage is not reflective of full consultation.
- The local authority has recently secured funding for the troubled families initiative. The stated aim of this strategy is ‘early intervention’ but the troubled families scheme has much the same aim targeted at many of the same issues. We fail to see how this can be achieved without addressing how it will link to such a significant new national push (troubled families initiative), certainly when it is a rare example of a new stream of funding. Clarity of aims cannot be reached when the council is working on two or more work streams that involve many of the same issues, without addressing how they will come together.”

2.2 The call-in was agreed as a valid call-in by the Monitoring Officer and Proper Officer in accordance with the rules set out in the Constitution.

2.3 As part of the Call-in, Councillor Halden recommended the alternative proposal:

*The work can be confined to a very short lived Task and Finish group. If the parent Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny agrees to this, the group can focus on the three key areas of concern in a confined way in time to report back to Cabinet in July or August.*

1) (a), section 10.4. Chapter 4, part 3 of the constitution – due regard for communities – data needs to be fully explained, for example, how was this number arrived at. At this stage it can be far more locally defined, for example instead of ward by ward it can be community by community. This will allow greater scope for ward members and external partners to offer their support and expertise in tackling the issues we have in these areas.

2) (c), section 10.4, Chapter 4, part 3 of the constitution – due consultation – we need to take the broken down communities and make an engagement plan, for example, who operates in this area or close to this area? This will allow us to shape a needs based service off of the back of detailed local

knowledge. We also need to avoid reinventing the wheel by talking to the faith, voluntary and private sector about the good work they are already doing before we attempt to tackle the issues at hand.

3) (f), section 10.4, Chapter 4, part 3 of the constitution – clarity of aims and outcomes – we need schemes such as the troubled families plan and the councils intentions completely outlined to us. This should come hand in hand with an analysis of what we think our problems are so we can outline how the work stream can come together and vitally, what success should look like.

**3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:**

3.1 When considering the call-in at its meeting, the eCommittee is recommended to adhere to the following schedule:

- The person who made the call-in to briefly introduce the reasons for the call-in and his/ her alternative proposals.
- Council Officers to respond to the Call-in and make their points.
- Receive comments from the Pportfolio hHolder if necessary.
- Receive comments from third parties that may be directly involved in the original cabinet decision if applicable.
- The person who made the Call-in to summarise.
- Committee to weigh up evidence and ask any relevant questions to those in attendance.
- Committee to decide to do one of the following:
  - a) if it is concerned about the original decision in light of the call-in, refer it back to Cabinet for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns. If referred to Cabinet, the decision may be amended or confirmed by them; or
  - b) if it considers the decision is contrary to the Budget or Policy Framework, refer the matter to the Council.
  - c) reject the call-in stating the reasons why.

**4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

4.1 The call-in has a positive impact on corporate policies as it allows for the proper exercise of the democratic function, namely for two non-cabinet councillors to call-in a cabinet decision based on valid arguments.

**Comment [s]:** Other headings may be appropriate. The report should outline the reasoning that leads to its recommendations and **must** include:

1. a brief summary of options considered;
2. consultation outcomes
3. a risk assessment.
4. Whether the responsible cabinet members have been consulted/contributed to the report (NB professional and political advice must be clearly distinguished)

- See para.5.5 of the report writing guidelines.

**Comment [a]:** Please refer to Section 5.7 of the Report Writing Guidelines

4.2 The role of Overview and Scrutiny in this function will allow for issues to be discussed in a public arena with cross party involvement and will give the opportunity for interested parties to join the debate and make representations.

**5. IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**  
 Telephone and email: **01375 652772**  
[mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk)

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report beyond any costs associated with any additional work undertaken.

**5.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Kar-Yee Chan**  
 Telephone and email: **01375 652938**  
[kchan@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:kchan@thurrock.gov.uk)

There are no specific legal implications directly arising from the Recommendations beyond the procedural matters cited at the start of this report.

**5.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**  
 Telephone and email: **01375 652472**  
[sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk)

There are no direct equality implications arising from this call in. Any alternative proposals would need to be reviewed and any equality implications arising from them would be stated as part of the proposals.

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

- Appendix A: Excerpt from the minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 13 June 2012.
- Appendix B: Cabinet Report and Appendix A from 13 June 2012 – Early Offer of Help Strategic Framework and Commissioning

**Comment [sj]:** This section should always be completed – if they are dealt with fully in another part of the report, they also need a brief cross reference here. The names and job titles of the officers providing the implications should be provided in full – see Guideline 6.1 and please note Democratic Services Deadlines and ensure that officers providing implications are given 5 clear working days to work on the report. Authors can write implications but they must be signed off by the appropriate officers

**Comment [sj]:** See Guideline 6.2

**Comment [sj]:** See Guideline 6.3

**Comment [sj]:** See Guideline 6.4

**Comment [sj]:** List the Appendices referred to in the Report

- Appendix C: Call-In from Councillor Halden.

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**Comment [sj]:** Insert the full contact details of the author of the report