

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE  
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH  
ON 2 DECEMBER 2014**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillors N Arculus (Chairman), Y Maqbool, R Brown, A Iqbal, N Thulbourn, M Fletcher and JA Fox	
<b>Also present</b>	Councillor Murphy Councillor Ferris Councillor Seaton	Cabinet Member for Resources
<b>Officers in Attendance:</b>	Steven Pilsworth Paulina Ford Ruth Lea	Head of Strategic Finance Senior Democratic Services Officer, Scrutiny Lawyer

**1. Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations**

There were no declarations of Interest or whipping declarations.

**3. Request for Call-In of an Executive Decision: Council Tax Support Scheme 2015/16 Consultation - NOV14/CMDN/96**

The Committee had been asked to consider a Call-In request that had been made in relation to the decision made by the Cabinet Member for Resources and published on 18 November 2014, regarding Council Tax Support Scheme 2015/16 Consultation - NOV14/CMDN/96

The request to Call-In this decision was made on 21 November 2014 by Councillor Murphy and supported by Councillor Ferris. The decision for Call-In was based on the following grounds:

- Criteria 4. The decision does not follow the principles of good decision making set out in Article 11 of the Council's Constitution specifically that the decision maker did not:
- (a) Realistically consider all alternatives and, where reasonably possible, consider the views of the public.
  - (b) Understand and keep to the legal requirements regulating their power to make decisions.

The reasons put forward by the Councillors were:

"The decision to consult on a proposed reduction in Council tax support ought to be called in because the decision to consult is flawed.

The consultation fails to take into account the option of not reducing Council tax support. This is at a time when Council tax is proposed to be frozen for the public so those receiving Council tax support will be unfairly hit by those proposals compared to the wider population of Peterborough. If Council tax is to be frozen consideration ought to have been given to freezing the Council tax support scheme at current levels and finding budget savings from elsewhere.

The consultation process is therefore flawed as it has failed to take account of all reasonable alternative options and therefore the decision to begin a flawed consultation is incorrect.

This decision will have an unduly onerous impact on vulnerable groups and an equality impact assessment should have been undertaken for this decision as it will have onerous consequences for vulnerable groups.”

After considering the request to Call-in the decision, the response to the Call-in and all relevant advice, the Committee were required to decide either to:

- (a) not agree to the request to call-in, when the decision shall take effect;
- (b) refer the decision back to the decision maker for reconsideration, setting out its concerns; or
- (c) refer the matter to full Council.

The Chairman read out the procedure for the meeting and put forward a motion to the Committee not to agree to the request to Call-in the decision as there were no grounds within the Call-in request to consider.

The committee voted in favour of the proposed motion (5 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention).

On agreeing not to up hold the Call-in and there being no other business the meeting ended. The Chair thanked all Members and officers for attending.

## **ACTION**

The request for Call-in of the decision made by Cabinet on 18 November 2014, regarding the Council Tax Support Scheme 2015/16 Consultation - NOV14/CMDN/96 was considered by the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee. Following consideration of the reasons stated on the request for call-in and the response to the call-in the Committee did **not** agree to the Call-in of this decision on any of the reasons stated.

It was therefore recommended that under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution (Part 4, Section 8, and paragraph 13), implementation of the decision would take immediate effect.

The meeting began at 6.30pm and ended at 6.40 pm

CHAIRMAN