

APPENDIX 1

CALL-IN REQUEST FORM

This form must be completed and signed by at least TWO members of any Scrutiny Commission or Scrutiny Committee and MUST be returned to the *Proper Officer within 3 working days of the decision being published (*not including the day of publication*). Please telephone the Proper Officer to make them aware that the Call-In form is on its way.

**Please note that the Proper Officer can be any of the following Senior Governance Officers: Paulina Ford, Gemma George. The Call-In Request will only be valid if it has been received in person by any of the above people within the 3 working day deadline. The form may be emailed or hand delivered. If sent in the post you must call the Proper Officer to advise that it has been posted and it will need to be received by the Proper Officer within the 3 working day deadline.*

Decision taker:	Cabinet
Date of publication of decision:	03.02.2014
Title of Decision Called in :	Vision for Early Years Services Including Children's Centres
Date Decision Called in:	05.02.2014

	REASONS FOR CALL-IN	Tick which reason applies
1.	Decision contrary to the policy framework?	
2.	Decision contrary or not wholly consistent with the budget?	
3.	Decision is Key but it has not been dealt with in accordance with the Council's Constitution.	x
4.	Decision does not follow principles of good decision-making set out in Article 12 of the Council's Constitution.	x
If reason 4, please tick which specific element of Article 12 the decision maker has not followed, did he or she not:		
(a)	Realistically consider all alternatives and, where reasonably possible, consider the views of the public.	x
(b)	Understand and keep to the legal requirements regulating their power to make decisions	x
(c)	Take account of all relevant matters, both in general and specific, and ignore any irrelevant matters.	
(d)	Act for a proper purpose and in the interests of the public.	x
(e)	Keep to the rules relating to local government finance.	
(f)	Follow procedures correctly and be fair.	x
(g)	Make sure they are properly authorised to make the decisions.	
(h)	Be responsible for their decisions and be prepared to give reasons for them.	
(i)	Take appropriate professional advice from officers.	

Detailed Reason(s) for Call-in. *Please explain below why one of the reasons for call-in applies (eg. For number 1 - which major policy affected and how/why)*

Paragraph 3: Breach of constitution. The previous call in recommendation was not debated fully in public. The debate was not fully transparent as it was part dealt with behind closed doors. I accept that this call in relates to the executive decision and not the previous call in but I would like to see the debate in public this time.

Additionally there was no debate at the Cabinet meeting.

Paragraph 4, a, d & f

The consultation period was time tabled during winter and over Christmas a particularly difficult time for consultations especially amongst the service user involved who are mainly parents with young children.

The consultation should not have been commenced when a call in had been agreed but this was not done in this case.

No attempt was made to research the children's views, nor were the evaluation reports commissioned (e.g. Cordus Bright) to look at Sure Start in Peterborough considered and not were the outcomes for children properly reported or considered.

Cabinet did not consider and debate the recommendations from scrutiny and council.

Matters raised in the consultation and the web consultation tool were not designed to raise alternatives. As such Cabinet did not realistically consider all alternatives and, where reasonably possible, consider the views of the public. Alternatives were numerous and included (1) further consultation, (2) making budget savings through efficiencies, (3) reducing the level of budget reductions required and (4) income generation by use of the facilities and charges for this, as well as looking for contributions from health and other budgets.

No cost benefit analysis was done concerning the consequence of the proposals and effects on other services and the increased costs for these. No information was considered regarding the additional travel costs for service users at the Cabinet meeting.

To date no information on additional cost and cost of the proposal such as travel expenses for outreach or staff restructuring or redundancies were considered.

The impact of loss of service on such things as school attainment was not considered. At the Rural Commission evidence was given that the Children's Centres had contributed towards the school achievement specifically within the rural areas (Eye). There was no mention of the costs associated in attempting to mitigate the impact of withdrawing these services when children reach school, entry age.

Paragraph b

The following statements are made on behalf of the parents in support of paragraph b that the Cabinet failed to properly take into account their legal obligations. This is to be read with the information above.

1. Children's center provision is a statutory duty on local authorities under section 5A of the Childcare Act 2006, as amended by section 198 of the Apprenticeships, Skills Children and Learning Act 2009.

2. Secondly, as per the equality impact, "Adverse impact is probable, since certain groups are likely to be disadvantaged, either proportionately or absolutely, or both. Remedial action is therefore necessary.

3. There is a public interest reason as adverse impact is probable, since certain groups are likely to be disadvantaged, for example anyone is in "in most need" but not within walking distance of the hubs will be at a disadvantage.

Anyone in Peterborough without family close by or good friendships will be disadvantaged as they will have nowhere to go to get tips on good parenting, or different techniques on, for example, effective discipline. Any parent without a wide range of techniques can find their child difficult to deal with, which can cause stress, depression and lead to parents hitting their children, neglecting them or worse. These parents will not consider themselves "in most need" and so will not come to the council's attention, therefore will not be able to attend the hubs. When these issues escalate to the point where they cannot control their children, or are so stressed they cannot function, the issue may or may not be picked up when the child is at school. These wasted years when poor behaviours become entrenched in both child and parent will mean the relationship between child and parent becomes damaged, possibly permanently. When health or social services get involved it will cost much more than it would have done if it was nipped it in the bud by it being picked up for referral by trained staff in the Children's centres.

	Name (please print)	Signature	Date
1.	Cllr Ed Murphy	Ed Murphy	05.02.2014
2.	Cllr Lisa Forbes	Lisa Forbes	05.02.2014
3.	Cllr Jo Johnson	J L Johnson	05.02.2014

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