

Scrutiny Call-In

Call In – Procedure to be Followed in the Meeting



1. Once the Chair has opened the meeting and any previous business on the agenda been dealt with, the Members who called in the decision will be asked to explain why they have done so and what they feel should be reviewed.

The Members making the call-in shall be allowed up to 15 minutes in total to present their case. It shall be up to them to determine how they wish to use their time, they may ask one speaker to speak or share the time among members who made the call in as they see fit.

2. **15 minutes shall be allowed to respond on behalf of the decision maker(s).** It shall be up to them to decide how to use this allocation. The relevant Cabinet Member, or a senior officer, may make the presentation or dividing the time as they see fit.
3. **After each presentation, Members of the Committee may ask questions to clarify any points made by the speakers** (although the speakers will not have an opportunity to cross-examine one another).
4. The Committee will then discuss the matter. **Members may ask further questions of the Members making the call in or the decision maker(s) during the debate. The Members making the call in and the decision maker will not normally speak during the debate, except to answer questions.**
5. When the Chair considers that the matter has been debated for a reasonable length of time, the decision maker will be offered the opportunity to make any final comments on the matter. **One of the Members making the call in will also be offered the opportunity to sum up. Each side will be allowed five minutes for this purpose.**

6. The matter will then move to the vote –

- 6.1 The first issue to consider is whether to confirm that the decision should be implemented (the decision can then be acted on immediately) –

If Members vote YES at this stage, the call in is ended (the matter will not be referred back).

- 6.2 The second issue to consider is whether the matter is within or outside of the policy framework and budget –

If the decision is not outside of the policy framework and budget, the Committee can decide to –

- support the decision which can then be acted on immediately, or
- send the decision back with its comments to the Cabinet or Cabinet member, who will take a final decision.

If the decision is outside of the policy framework and budget, it will go as a recommendation to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, along with any comments from the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee (if two Cabinet Members want earlier action, an extra ordinary meeting of the Council can be held, see Council Procedure Rule 6).

Council is able to –

- **ask the Cabinet to reconsider, or**
- **change the policy framework and budget so that the decision is within it – the decision can then be acted on immediately.**

6.3 If Members vote in favour of referring the matter for reconsideration, they must vote on where to refer the matter.

The Chair will ask Members to vote in favour of –

- **recommend that the decision maker should reconsider the decision in light of the comments expressed by the Committee**
- **refer the decision to Council to consider the call in**
- **(send comments to Council on any decision that recommends changing the policy framework and budget).**

If referred back to the decision maker(s), the Chair will confirm the Committee's comments for the referral back to Cabinet.