



City of Westminster

Westminster Scrutiny Commission

Meeting:	Westminster Scrutiny Commission
Date:	9th April 2014
Classification:	For General Release
Title:	Constitutional Issues – Call-In
Wards Affected:	Not Applicable
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications
Report of:	Mick Steward, Head of Committee and Governance Services, Tel: 020 7641 3134; Email: msteward@westminster.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The City Council's Constitution requires that the Westminster Scrutiny Commission should receive a report on an annual basis on the operation of the call-in procedures also setting out details of the times when the urgency provisions have been used to exclude the call-in provisions. The call-in provisions have been exempted once in the last 12 months as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Background, including Policy Context

- 3.1 The Chief Executive is empowered, having consulted with the Leader of the Council, to exempt on grounds of the urgency reports from the call-in procedures, where in his opinion, any delay is likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interest.

- 3.2 The Council's Constitution requires that decisions taken as a matter of urgency (when the call-in provision have been exempted) must be reported to the Westminster Scrutiny Commission, together with the reasons for urgency, on an annual basis. These provisions have been used once in the last 12 months in respect of a report arising from legal issues relating to the Award of Highways and Transport Contracts which had recently been taken. It was necessary to exempt the call-in provisions to allow for the contract awards to be confirmed in time for these to be made in accordance with the planned commencement date.
- 3.3 The Constitution also requires the operation of the call-in provisions to be monitored annually by the WSC with proposals for review, if necessary. The call-in provisions have not been triggered during the last 12 months. No issues associated with the operation of the call-in provisions have arisen during the last 12 months and no changes are recommended.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. Other Implications

- 6.1 None.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact: Mick Steward, Tel: 020 7641 3134
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None.