



City of Westminster

Westminster Scrutiny Commission

Meeting:	Westminster Scrutiny Commission
Date:	22 March 2018
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 (WSC) should, from time to time, 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 as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report over the last 4 years.

2. Key Matters for the Commission's Consideration

- 2.1 Does the commission have any comments on the procedures for call-in and urgency?

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 WSC, together with the reasons for urgency. These provisions have been used in the last 4 years, as follows:
- Shared ICT Services – Procurement of Software Licences for Cloud-based Collaboration Tools – Decision on 29 June 2015 (Reason: Implementation date of 1 July 2018 made it impossible to comply with the call-in provisions.
 - BT Settlement – Decision on 19 July 2017 (Reason: A time limited settlement did not allow time for the call-in arrangements.
 - Little Venice Towers- January 2018 – Decision on Urgent Health and Safety works were required.
- 3.3 The Constitution also requires that the operation of the call-in provisions should be monitored annually by the WSC with proposals for review, if necessary. The call-in provisions have been triggered as follows in the last 4 years:
- Jubilee/Moberley Sports Centre (Ward Member call-in): Decision endorsed.
 - Garden Bridge (Called-in by 3 Members of relevant committee): Decision referred to decision maker for further report.
 - Church Street Masterplan (Ward Member call-in): Decision endorsed.
- 3.4 The information in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 above setting out the use of the exemption provisions and the use of the call-in provisions does not highlight the need for any changes in either aspect of the call-in process.

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.