

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**11 JANUARY 2005**

**OUTCOME OF CALL-IN:  
PROVISION OF A BMX TRACK IN THE BEECHWOOD WARD**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To report the outcome of the Special Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) held on 5 January 2005 to review the key decision made by an Individual Executive Member on 17 December 2004, in accordance with the Authority's Call-In Procedure.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. As Members will recall, the Call-In Procedure was recently instigated, following a decision undertaken by the Executive Member for Community Safety and Leisure. The decision was to support a bid to provide a BMX track adjacent to the Community Centre in the Beechwood Ward, subject to management arrangements being secured (Individual Executive Decision-Making Meeting held on 17 December 2004 refers).
3. Subsequently a Special Meeting of the OSB was held on 5 January 2005 to allow the Board to review the decision taken.

**OBSERVATIONS**

4. Having reviewed the decision, the Board would like to make the following observations on this issue:-

- (a) The consultation process was weak and focussed almost entirely on the 'mud hills'. Little evidence was presented which indicated any widespread consultation had been undertaken on the new proposal;
- (b) The consultation process undertaken in 2003 clearly took place against a background of sharply divergent views, both between the Elected Wards Members and between residents; and
- (c) As a result of this (point (b) refers), the Council should have undertaken more independent consultation of residents' views (specifically regarding the proposal) rather than relying principally on the Community Council.

## **CONCLUSION**

- 5. The OSB concluded that on this occasion the Board would not be recommending the Executive Member for Community Safety and Leisure to formally re-consider the decision.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6. The Board's key recommendations to the Executive Member for Community Safety and Leisure are as outlined below:-
  - (a) That the observations outlined in paragraph 4 are noted;
  - (b) That should the bid be approved, that detailed consultation on the design proposal be undertaken; and
  - (c) That in the event of the bid being accepted and the project going ahead, the Council should identify a specific budget for security, CCTV, lighting, management arrangements and maintenance of the site.

**COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CARR  
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (a) Report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer entitled 'Call-In: Provision of a BMX Track in the Beechwood Ward' to the Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 5 January 2005.
- (b) Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services entitled 'Call-In Procedure – Beechwood BMX' to the Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 5 January 2005.
- (c) Report of the Executive Director for Environment entitled 'Provision of a BMX Track in the Beechwood Ward' to the Individual Executive Meeting of the Executive Member for Community Safety and Leisure of 17 December 2004.