

SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

15th July 2008

CALL-IN:

UNALLOCATED RESOURCES

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To allow Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) the opportunity to review a decision made at an Executive Meeting on 24 June 2008, in accordance with the Authority's Call-In procedure.

EXECUTIVE DECISION – 24 June 2008

2. At the Executive meeting held on 24 June, consideration was given to a report titled 'Unallocated Resources'.
3. At this meeting, the report, detailed at **appendix 1**, set out the following:
 1. The proposals for the use of unallocated resources in the 2008/09 revenue budget.
 2. There was £342,000 left unallocated and it was allocated to support the development of the town centre economy. As follows
 - i. events £222,000
 - ii. promotion and publicity £70,000
 - iii. staffing £50,000
4. In doing so, the Executive ordered the following:
 - a) That the package of proposals set out in the report for spending unallocated resources be approved.

CALL-IN PROCEDURE

5. The Call-In Procedure allows Members the opportunity to Call-In a decision for scrutiny by the OSB which was made by:
 - i) The Executive;

- ii) An individual Member of the Executive;
 - iii) A Committee of the Executive;
 - iv) A key decision made by an officer with delegated authority from the Executive;
or
 - v) Under Joint Arrangements.
6. The Call-In Procedure may only be implemented if so requested by any five Members of the Council and upon receipt of any such request by the Proper Officer before the end of the fifth working day after the making of that decision.
7. Following the Unallocated Resources report, which was approved by the Executive on 24 June, five Members supported the request to Call-In such decision, in accordance with the Call-In procedure.
8. Throughout this special meeting of the OSB, Members will have the opportunity to review the decision. Having considered the decision the OSB may, if they feel it appropriate, refer the decision back to the decision-making body for re-consideration, setting out in writing the nature of their concerns.
9. If the decision is referred back, then a further Executive Meeting will be held within ten further working days. The Executive can then make a final decision in the light of any recommendations made by OSB.
10. If the recommendations of the OSB are not accepted in full, then the Executive should notify the OSB and give reasons for not accepting the recommendations.

REASONS GIVEN FOR THE CALL-IN

11. The reason given to the Authority's Proper Officer which initiated the Call-In Procedure is as follows:
- i) By concentrating solely on the town centre, this is an unfair allocation of funding about which there was neither public consultation nor approval by the citizens of Middlesbrough nor the Council in detailed budgetary terms. Moreover, there are both Ward specific and other town wide projects that have already been suggested and which financial input would have directly benefited Middlesbrough Constituents, for example, the workshops in the Southlands Centre, toilet provision in and around the town and support for the Roman Road Post Office.

Unallocated Resources

12. To assist Members of the OSB to review the decision made by the Executive in relation to the Unallocated Resources report, the following key witnesses will be in attendance during this Special Meeting:
- i) The Deputy Mayor (to present how the decision was reached); and
 - ii) Director of Regeneration – (to present the background to the report presented to the Executive on 24 June 2008);
 - iii) The Member who initiated the Call-In request (to present their views and concerns with regard to decision made by the Executive).

PROPOSED CALL-IN TIMETABLE

13. To ensure the Call-In procedure is adhered to, the following Call-In timetable is as outlined below:

MEETING	DATE/TIME	PURPOSE
Special Meeting - Overview and Scrutiny Board	15 th July 4.0 PM	To review the decision taken by the Executive on 24 June in accordance with the Call-In Procedure.
Executive Meeting	To be determined	To re-consider the decision (if required to do so)
Overview and Scrutiny Board	29 th July 4.30 PM	To notify the OSB of the reasons for not accepting the OSB recommendations (if applicable).

RECOMMENDATION

14. It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the content of this report, to enable the Call-In procedure to be adhered to.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- i) Middlesbrough Council's Constitution / Call-In Procedure; and
- ii) Middlesbrough Council's Scrutiny Handbook

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