

AGENDA ITEM: 3

SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

28th JULY 2010

CALL-IN:

Environment Creche Review

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To allow Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) the opportunity to review a decision made at an Individual Executive Member meeting on 6th July 2010, in accordance with the Authority's Call-In Procedure.

EXECUTIVE DECISION — 6th July 2010

2. At an Individual Executive Member meeting, consideration was given to a report relating to the Environment Creche Review.
3. At this meeting, the report, detailed at **appendix 1**, sets out the following:
 1. That consideration be given to 3 options following a review of the in-house crèche provision at the Rainbow, Southlands, Neptune and Pallister Park crèches having regard to a recurring budget deficit. The report also reflects an agreed corporate budget saving of £25,000 in 2010/11.
 2. The report outlined that Crèche provision in leisure centres in Middlesbrough was developed because childcare was considered to be a barrier to adults, particularly women, participating in sport and physical activity. The report presents that there was limited alternative crèche provision available in Middlesbrough. The crèche rooms are also used for other activities such as yoga, practical training, children's parties and classrooms.
 3. The report states that crèches do not have separate budgets but are part of the venue revenue budgets. The table attached to the Executive report

identifies the current staff costs and income at each crèche for 2009/10. The £74,546 budget deficit refers only to income and staff costs and items such as materials and equipment would only increase the identified deficit. Adult users (parents) of the crèche bring an estimated £21,036 to the service by paying for sporting activities, so the net revenue loss of £53,510 is also shown. This assumes that if crèches were not available within venues then crèche users would not use sports facilities at the venues.

4. In doing so, the Executive ordered the following:

ORDERED

1. That Option 2 be approved and crèche provision at all venues ceases from July.

REASON

The decision were supported by the following reasons:

1. A £25,000 budget saving relating a review of crèche provision in parks and leisure was accepted as part of the corporate budget savings exercise for 2010/11.
2. Existing crèche space could be redeveloped to provide income generating physical activity opportunities.
3. There are other childcare venues available.

CALL-IN PROCEDURE

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Following an Executive meeting, which addressed the report of the Environment Creche Review, which was approved by the Executive Member on 6th July 2010. Five Members supported the request to Call-In such decision, in accordance with the Call-In procedure.

7. 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.
8. If the decision is referred, 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.
9. 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

10. The reason given to the Authority's Proper Officer which initiated the Call-In Procedure for the Executive Members decision on the Director of Environment's report, re the Environment Creche Review, relates to the recommendations to approve option 2. and is as follows:-
 1. That consultation with users of the Creche facilities was never undertaken.
 2. The proposal goes against the Mayor's. much published, Healthy Town Initiative.
 3. The savings presented by staff of Creches have never been fully explored and ward Councillors never consulted.
 4. The decision will create massive negative impact in East Middlesbrough wards especially in areas classed as having high levels of unemployment and social deprivation.

Environment – Creche Review

11. To assist Members of the OSB to review the decision made by the Executive Member in relation to the Environment Creche Review. The following key witnesses will be in attendance during this Special Meeting:
 - i) Head of Community Protection. to present the background to the report presented to the Executive Member for Public Health and Sport at an Individual Executive Meeting held on 6th July 2010.
 - ii) The Executive Member for Public Health and Sport (to present how the decision was reached); and

- iii) The Member who initiated the Call-In request (to present their views and concerns with regard to the decision made by the Executive Member for Public Health and Sport).

PROPOSED CALL- IN TIMETABLE

12. 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	28 th July 10 2.00 PM	To review the decisions taken by the Executive Member on 6 th July 2010, in accordance with the Call-In Procedure.
Individual Executive Meeting	5 th August 10 1.00 PM	To re-consider the decision (if required to do so)
Overview and Scrutiny Board	24 th August 2010 4.30 PM	To notify the OSB of the outcome of the Call In

RECOMMENDATION

13. 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

14. 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 2007.

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