

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012**

**OUTCOME OF CALL-IN:**

**Review of Wilson Street Taxi Marshal Scheme**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1 To report the outcome of the special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) which was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to address the report and the decision made on the Review of Wilson Street Taxi Marshal Scheme of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2 This report presents the formal feedback to the Board regarding the special meeting to address the Call In.
- 3 The Call-In procedure was recently instigated, following a decision undertaken at the Executive Member meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The decision was based upon a report titled "Review of Wilson Street Taxi Marshal Scheme". In doing so the Executive ordered that
  1. That a temporary extension to the use of Taxi Marshals in Wilson Street until January 2013 be approved. This would allow Officers, the Taxi Trade and other stakeholders, to review the current provision for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles in Wilson

Street via the Quality Taxi Partnership (QTP) in an attempt to find a permanent solution to the issues surrounding Wilson Street.

- 4 Subsequently a special meeting of the OSB was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to allow the Board to review the decision taken.

## **OBSERVATIONS**

- 5 Having reviewed the decision, the Board wish to make the following observations on this issue:-

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Board received information regarding the basis for calling in the decision. The Board made a number of enquiries to all parties to ascertain the present effectiveness of the Taxi Marshals and the impact this is having in assisting the public and contribute to public order and therefore their safety.
- The Board also enquired as to the reasoning behind the extension and the intentions to engage with the partnership for a more permanent solution.
- The Board also addressed each item raised by the Member calling In the decision and the response from the Executive Member.
- An additional observation emerging from this meeting was although, on this occasion, the Board afforded the Member all the opportunities requested to present the case and influence the Board it also allowed a last minute request for the Member calling in the decision to invite another party to convey some issues to the Board.

## **CONCLUSION**

- 6 The OSB listened to all the information and evidence received and concluded that there was not a case for this to be referred back. Consequently, the Board would not require the Executive to re-consider the decision taken on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
- 7 The Board also wants to express that, unless there are exceptional circumstances, it is for the Member Calling In the decision to present the case for the said Call In. Other parties requesting to speak will only be allowed to do so with the Chairs permission in advance of the meeting and in accord with the Council's constitution.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8 The Special OSB recommendation to the Executive was that the decision referred to in this report was not referred back for reconsideration.

**COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON**

**CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

### **Contact Officers:**

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: -
  - (a) Report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer entitled Call-In: Review of Wilson Street Taxi Marshal Scheme to the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
  - (b) Reports of the Director of Adult Social Care and Environment of Regeneration presented to the Individual Executive on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012.