

# Executive Decision 'Call-in' Request

## REQUEST FOR CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

I wish to register a request for the following Executive decision to be called in for reconsideration prior to implementation. My objection to the decision and alternative decision/proposal are set out below.

Decision taken by: Executive Member (LDF and Planning) Date published: 16 January 2014

Decision Title: Notification of Decisions on Planning Applications – Cessation of Notification Letters to Contributors (those who comment on applications)

I am (please tick appropriate box)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chorley Councillor | <input type="checkbox"/> the Chair or Secretary of a voluntary group with an interest in the Borough | <input type="checkbox"/> a proprietor or director of a local business situated in the Borough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a resident of the Borough     |  |   |

### The Objection and Alternative Decision/Proposal

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary (500 words maximum)

The Objection is:

Removing the current practice of advising people of the outcome of a planning application, on which they have commented, will reduce the effectiveness of communication between the council and its stakeholders. By removing this service the council is doing less, not more, towards meeting the needs of local residents.

The alternative decision/proposal is:

To continue to reply to those who comment on planning applications advising them of the outcome, in the same manner that the original comment was made. If people write in then they receive a written response, if the comment is through e-channels, or an e-mail address is provided in their correspondence, then they receive a response through e-channels.

The case for the alternative is:

At a time when the council is measuring an increase in dissatisfaction in the way it deals with the public any reduction in communication, with those who contact the council, will increase the level of dissatisfaction. It is only proper and good practice to reply to those who have taken their time to contribute, advising them of the outcome.

The requirement for written notifications will, as stated in the decision notification, reduce over time as contributors increase their use of e-channels, resulting in a natural reduction in costs. Based on the figures provided in the decision notification, in 2010/11 82% were posted, 2011/12 71% and 2012/13

52%, if this rate of reduction is projected forwards then by 2016 the number of postal comments and the associated costs, will become minimal. The figure provided in the decision notification, as an estimate for postal comments for 2013/14, represents an increase of written comments (to 59%) rather than a reduction, as is the recent trend, suggesting the figures used to form the decision and cost savings are flawed.

If it is accepted that the estimated figure for postal contributions in 2013/14, in the decision notification, is correct then, by implementing this decision, the majority (59%) of contributors will not be informed of the decision, hence this is deviating from the strategic objective of being "An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area" as it is purposely omitting to inform the majority of contributors.

Name: PAUL LEADBETTER	Signature: 	Date: 22 January 2014
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Please complete and return this form to the Democratic Services Manager, Town Hall, Chorley, PR7 1DP. Should you have any queries about completing the form please telephone 01257 515196.

Call-in Request:      Accepted          Rejected   

Reason for Rejection: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Guidance Notes

1. Requests can be made by members of the local community and Borough Councillors under the Council's 'call-in' procedure for executive decisions that have not been implemented to be reconsidered by the person or body who made them. The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Guidance and Constitution provide more information on what constitutes an executive decision. Both are available on the Council's Website [www.chorley.gov.uk](http://www.chorley.gov.uk). Alternatively further guidance can be sought from the contact officer above.

Decisions which relate to individual applications for licences or planning permission cannot be called in as they are not executive decisions.

2. Call-in requests must be made in writing and received by the Democratic Services Manager at the Town Hall, Market St, Chorley within 10 working days of the relevant decision being published. All requests must state the decision reference number, title, and the reasons for the objection to the decision and present an alternative decision or proposal for consideration.
3. All requests for call-in are considered initially by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) who will reject any considered to be frivolous, defamatory, incomplete or otherwise outside the scope of the call-in procedure or inappropriate for consideration. Call-in requests accepted by the OSC Chair will, where practicable (having regard to when the decision is likely to be implemented), be submitted to the next meeting of the OSC (provided they are received before the meeting agenda has closed). If it is not practicable for consideration of a call-in request to wait until the next OSC meeting, the Chair with the agreement of 3 other Members of the OSC may decide to call-in the decision.
4. Where a decision is referred back to the original decision-maker no steps shall then be taken to implement the decision until it has been reconsidered by the body or person who made it. If a decision is referred to Council, the Council will decide at its next meeting whether to review or scrutinise the decision and if so, when and how. But there is no obligation in that event to postpone any implementation of the decision. If the Council does decide to review or scrutinise the decision, the Council will only have power to express views or make recommendations to the body or person who made it, unless it was not in accordance with the Policy Framework or was contrary to or not wholly consistent with the Budget.
5. The OSC may itself decide within 2 months of a decision being made to review and scrutinise it and formulate views or recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet and or the body or person who made the decision. Those views or recommendations must then be considered within three months.
6. Where the OSC refers a decision back, the decision-maker is under an obligation to reconsider the original decision in the light of the representations made. There is no requirement however, to change the decision. Following such reconsideration, the decision, with or without modification, may be implemented and it cannot be call-in again.
7. Call-in requests will be acknowledged within 5 working days of receipt. Decisions regarding the request will be notified to the originator of the call-in request by the Democratic Services Manger within 5 working days of the decision being taken.