

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20/02/07

EXECUTIVE DECISION 'CALL – IN' REQUEST

PURPOSE OF REPORT`

1. To consider a call-in request submitted by Councillor K Ball in respect of an Executive decision taken by the Executive Leader.

BACKGROUND

2. Section 8 of Appendix 5 in the Council's Constitution sets out the procedure for the review of Executive decisions, which is commonly known as the call-in procedure. A copy of the procedure is attached to this report as **Appendix 1**.
3. When a decision has been made but not implemented by the Executive Cabinet, or an individual member of the Executive Cabinet, Members of the Council may within ten days of the decision being made and in accordance with the call-in procedure procedure set out in Appendix Form 1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Toolkit request the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person or body who made it, or arrange for the decision to be reviewed or scrutinised by the Council.

EXECUTIVE DECISION

4. The Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment submitted a report to the Executive Cabinet on 7 December 2006, on proposals to revise the staffing structure of his Directorate (**attached as Appendix 2**) and it was agreed:
 - that the proposals outlined in the report be approved for consultation with staff and trade unions and
 - that the Executive Leader, in consultation with the Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment and the Director of Human Resources, be given delegated authority to agree variations to the proposals following the consultation process and to implement the recommendations accordingly.
5. The Director of Human Resources submitted a report to the Executive Leader on 29 January 2007 on the outcome of the responses to consultation on the restructure proposals (**attached as Appendix 3**) and it was agreed that the restructure proposals outlined in the Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment report to the 7th December 2006 Executive Cabinet meeting be approved subject to (i) a few minor amendments as set out in an appendix to the Director of Human Resources' report (including agreement to ring fence Neighbourhood Wardens to Neighbourhood Officer posts, along with Neighbourhood Supervisors and Environmental Wardens) and (ii) budget ratification of the proposals at the Council meeting on 27 February 2007.



CALL - IN REQUEST

6. Councillor K Ball submitted a call-in request on 31 January 2006 which requests this Committee to recommend that the Executive Leader or the Council should reconsider the Executive decision referred to in paragraph 5 above.
7. In accordance with the call-in procedure, the request has been considered by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor D Edgerley) and he has agreed that the request be referred to this meeting of the Committee for consideration.
8. The **objection** is to that part of the executive decision to remove 20 Neighbourhood Wardens, when agreeing to jointly fund up to an additional 16 Police Community Support Officers (making the pledge of 6 into 22). This reduces the potential uniformed presence available round the clock 7 days a week from 26 to 22. It also removes £229,000 expenditure from this Council's priority. Given that the Home Office funding is time limited, removal of the Council's financial capacity will leave the Council unable to respond at the time the funding ends.
9. The **alternative decision/proposal** is: That the £229,000 saving be spent on employing Neighbourhood Wardens to provide cover after 5 o'clock Monday to Friday and at weekends with the appropriate saving being made in the publicity department if needed because this is not a priority of the Council and is not a front line service to benefit the residents of Chorley.
10. The **case for the alternative** is: That it contributes to strategic objective 5 and specifically long term outcomes 5.1 and 5.4 by substantially increasing the number of officers dealing with anti-social behaviour and low levels of crime. In addition, if the Home Office funding ends the Council will need this funding of £229,000 and its 25% contribution to the PCSO's to be able to reinstate a full neighbourhood warden service. It will also still allow a balanced budget with an appropriate Council Tax increase.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

11. The Committee is requested to consider the call - in request and determine whether or not to recommend that the Executive Leader or the Council should reconsider the Executive decision referred to in paragraph 5 above.

ANDREW DOCHERTY
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES

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