

SC19 CALL-IN PROCEDURE

The Committee considered a report on call-in procedures and the decision taken by the Constitution Working Group when it discussed the matter on 21 July 2016.

The Chairman explained that this followed the Committee's call-in of a Cabinet decision regarding the Street Naming and Numbering Policy. He explained that the County Council's procedures allowed a call-in to not proceed if the Member calling in the decision and members of the Cabinet agreed to reconsider the decision.

He said there would be some issues with this regarding transparency. More thought was needed on the matter and it would be helpful if the Committee looked at this at a later time.

The Interim Head of Legal Services suggested it would be sensible to have a mechanism in place to cancel call-ins provided that appropriate checks and balances were in place. It would be possible to include a mechanism which allowed the Chairman to prevent the call-in from being cancelled. He was conscious that the Committee and the Working Group avoided unnecessarily duplicating work.

Councillors Felton, Oliver and Light said that the matter should not be deferred and should be considered at the meeting.

The Interim Head of Legal Services said that he would be compiling a note to the Working Group on how the constitution would need to be changed. This could also be circulated to Members of the Committee for comment.

Councillor Barker said he agreed with having a system in place to cancel call-ins. He said there were two likely situations which would result in the cancellation of a call-in. The first was where the Member who called-in the decision was reassured and the decision stood. This could be due to a misunderstanding of the decision. The second was where it was agreed that the decision would be reconsidered by Cabinet. After the matter was reconsidered, the Committee had the power to call-in the decision again.

Councillor Barker proposed that changes to the constitution were dealt with by the Constitution Working Group.

RESOLVED that the Interim Head of Legal Services would circulate the proposed amendments to the constitution to the Committee before they were considered by the Constitution Working Group.