

REVIEW OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY CALL IN PROCEDURE

Background

The current call-in procedures have been in operation since 2002, and it is considered that this might be an appropriate time to review those procedures. By way of background, set out below is the number of occasions the sub-committee has met since that time. Of the total number of call-ins to date (29), 10 decisions have been upheld.

Municipal Year	Number of Occasions	Number of Decisions
2002/3	3	5
2003/4	0	0
2004/5	3	4
2005/6	3	4

The Sub-Committee has since met on three occasions, August and October 2006 and again in January 2007.

2006/7	3	16
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Options available

1. Limiting the number of decisions called in per year.
2. Allowing decisions to be called in by the chair or any individual member of the main Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
3. Imposing a limit on the number decisions called in by members per year.
4. Allowing the public to call in decisions.

Proposals

To adopt the above options, which will be reviewed at the end of the first year:

1. Limiting the number of decisions called-in in any municipal year to ten.
2. Allowing two decisions to be called in by any member of the main Overview and Scrutiny committee.
3. Limiting the number of decisions called in by Members of the Council (including co-opted members) to eight. (The eight would include the two decisions that can be called in by any member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
4. Allow 150 members of the public to call in two decisions in any municipal year. Members of the public to be defined as anyone on the electoral register of the Borough. Those calling in the decision must sign the notice and give their name and address. Random checks of names and addresses would be carried out to ensure that the process is not abused.

The current Overview & Scrutiny call in procedure rules would continue to apply, save for the amendments below.