



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

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An Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny

**Democratic Services
London Borough of Havering**



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If Councils get it wrong!

- North Staffs
- Baby P
- Quintin Kynaston School





Decision making in the Constitution

- **Council** functions, which are explicitly the responsibility of the full Council and/or its Committees or staff on their behalf.
- **Executive** functions, which are the responsibility of the Executive, meaning the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members, or staff on their behalf.



What is Overview and Scrutiny?

- Review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions.
- Make reports and/or recommendations to the Council/Cabinet/any policy committee, in connection with the discharge of any functions.



The Overview and Scrutiny Committees

(no members of the Executive (Cabinet) may sit on O & S)

- Children & Learning
- Crime and Disorder Committee
- Environment O & S
- Health O & S
- Individuals O & S
- Towns and Communities O & S
- Value O & S



Individuals Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 7 Members (3:2:1:1)
- Chairman – Councillor June Alexander (Residents' Group)
- Vice-Chairman - Councillor Philip Hyde (UKIP Group)



O & S – Topic Groups (1)

- **Setting up Topic Groups**
- **Scope and reporting**
- **Time limit**
- **Number limit**
- **Membership**



OSC Topic Groups (2)

What is required?

- Clear terms of reference
- Careful scoping
- Careful monitoring, to avoid allowing the review to unconsciously change its remit
- A clear plan including timelines



O & S Topic Groups (3)

- Recommendations which have SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed) targets and which are assigned to named individuals
- A robust review of progress at predefined dates after the review has been completed.



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O & S – Committee Procedure Rules

Part 4, pages 271 - 281 of the Constitution



O & S – What Happens in Practice

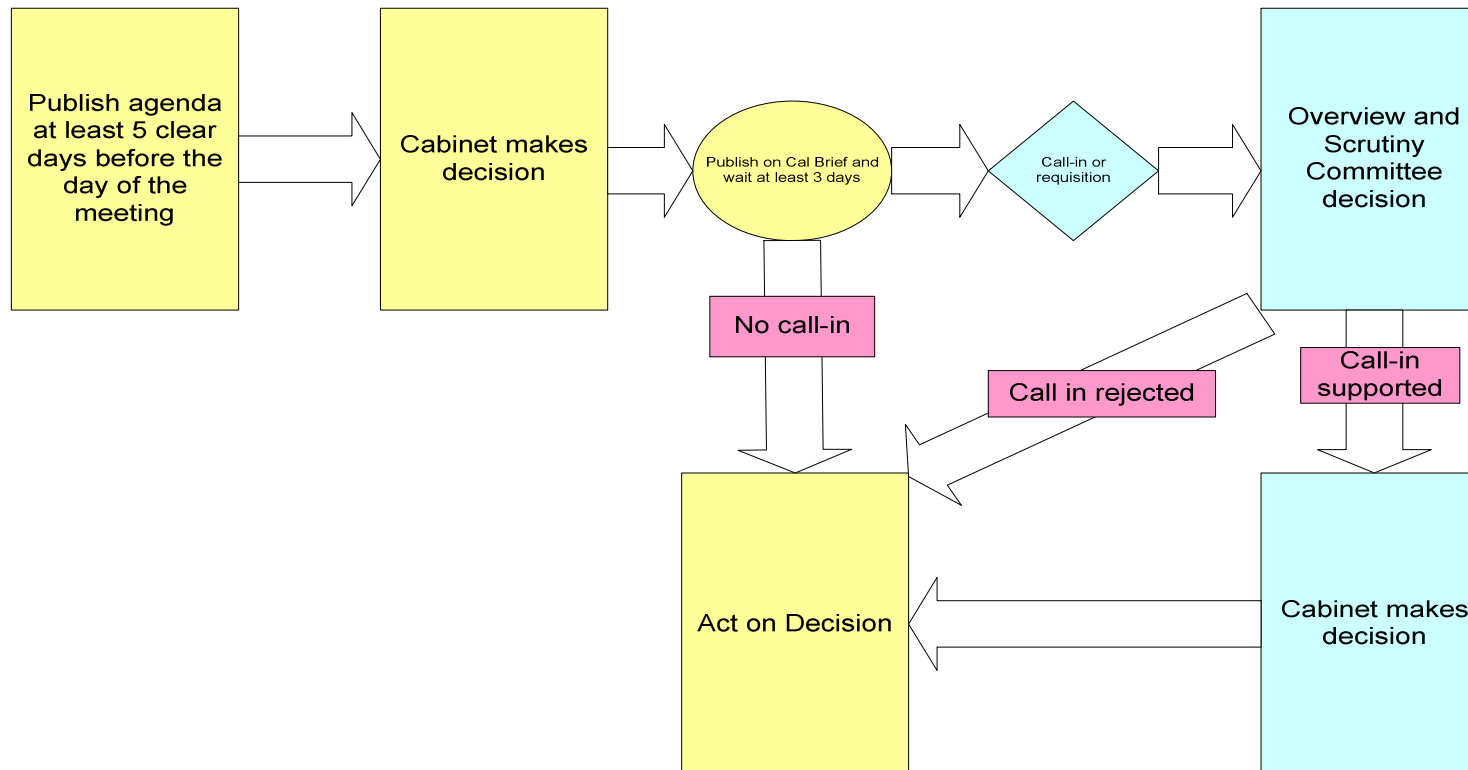
- Requisitions/Call-ins
- Budget Scrutiny
- Policy Framework Plans
- Topic Groups
- Performance





The call-in process in Havering

Cabinet decision - call in process





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Councillor Call for Action

- The Councillor Call for Action (CCA) is a power that allows any Member to bring a matter of concern to an OSC.



Statutory Scrutiny Officer

- Promotes the role of the Authority's OSCs
- Provides support to the Authority's OSCs and their Members
- Provides support and guidance to:
 1. Members of the Authority
 2. Members of the Executive of the Authority
 3. Officers of the Authority
- Statutory Scrutiny Officer for Havering – Andrew Beesley, Committee Administration Manager



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