



REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS - arranging for review by an Overview & Scrutiny Committee

In accordance with requirements of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council's Executive Arrangements provide for the call-in of certain Executive Decisions for review by the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC). Generally, unless the next ordinary meeting is imminent, a special meeting of the OSC will need to be called.

A balance is needed between:

- compliance with the legal requirements for convening a meeting
- ensuring that the executive business of the Council can be taken forward without avoidable disruption
- ensuring that the Members who have submitted the requisition have due opportunity to explain the reasons for their requisition and to seek the support of the OSC

In practice, this means that the OSC will generally need to meet either at the end of the week following receipt of the requisition or during the week following that.

The Governance Committee noted that, currently, there is no specific timescale for convening an OSC meeting following receipt of a requisition and that this had, on occasion, led to difficulty. The Committee agreed that it would be useful to include in the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules a requirement that the OSC be convened to meet within 10 working days of the requisition being received, where it is practicable to do so (for example, it might not be practicable to do so over the Christmas/New Year period) unless an ordinary meeting of the OSC is due within 15 working days.

The Committee therefore RECOMMENDS that the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules be adjusted by amending paragraph 17(b) of the Rules to read as follows:

- (b) If the Committee Administration and Member Support Manager is notified of a requisition of a decision shown on that notification within three working days in Calendar Brief (or any supplementary Calendar Brief) of a decision, then that decision shall not be acted upon but shall be submitted to the OSC as soon as possible, either at the next ordinary meeting if due within 15 working days of receipt of the requisition or at a special meeting convened for the purpose (to be held, so far as practicable, within 10 working days of the receipt of the requisition), for determination.

(Amended text highlighted for clarity)