

COUNCIL, 22 NOVEMBER 2023 – AGENDA ITEM 9: EXEMPTIONS FROM CALL-IN

Questions by the Conservative Group

1. Has there been an increase in the use of call-in exemptions, in comparison to non-covid years? If so, what is the main driver behind that rise?
2. A large number of the 'reasons for urgency' indicate the decision had to be taken urgently. What measures are being put in place to ensure that there is a longer notice period for decisions, in order to avoid exemption and to allow pre-decision scrutiny?
3. Are the Chief Executive and Leader content that the level of exemptions is healthy?

Deemed motion by the Administration

That the report be adopted and its recommendations carried into effect.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

That the following additional recommendation be added to the report:

Given the precarious financial situation of Havering Council, and following advice that a lack of scrutiny is a significant driver in local-authorities issuing S114 notices, this council will undertake to put in place robust planning procedures, in order to reduce the use of call-in exemptions.