



COUNCIL, 23 JULY 2025

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**SUBJECT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RULES – EXCEPTION TO THE
CALL-IN (REQUISITION) PROCEDURE**

SUMMARY

Under paragraph 18e of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Leader of the Council is required to submit reports to Council on decisions taken by himself, Cabinet or individual Cabinet members, or key decisions made by a member of staff in the circumstances set out in Rule 18 (exemption to the call-in (requisition) procedure) within the previous 3 months.

This report details Key Decisions that have been taken in the circumstances set out in Rule 18 (exemption to the call-in (requisition) procedure) for the six month period covering **1st January 2025 to 30th June 2025**.

- 1) Arts Council - Acceptance of Grant
(Decision made on 18 March 2025)
- 2) Acceptance of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) –
Havering Allocation for 2025/2026
(Decision made on 27 March 2025)

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be noted.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Rule 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules provides that:

(b) The call-in procedure shall not apply where a decision being taken by Cabinet or an individual Cabinet member, or a key decision made by a member of staff is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interests. The record of the decision and notice by which it is made shall state whether in the opinion of the decision making person or body, the decision is an urgent one, and therefore not subject to call-in.

(c) The decision making person or body can only take an urgent decision under (a) above and avoid the call-in procedures after obtaining agreement from the Chairman of the Board that the decision be treated as urgent.

Arts Council - Acceptance of Grants

2. On behalf of Cabinet, the Strategic Director of People, sought agreement from the Chairman of the Board to exempt from call-in a key decision concerning an application for grant funding from the Arts Council.
- 2.1 The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Board, Councillor Laurance Garrard, gave his agreement to the exemption from call-in for the following reason:
- 2.2 Officers were advised on 10th February that a bid to Arts Council England to deliver elements of the Council's Cultural Strategy "A Good Life" had been successful. It was a condition of the offer that funding had to be accepted within 28 days', otherwise the Council risked losing the £500,000 grant. In order not to prejudice the Council's interests, call-in was waived to allow for the money to be awarded within the timescales set by the Arts Council.

Acceptance of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Havering Allocation for 2025/2026

3. On behalf of Cabinet, the Strategic Director of Place, sought agreement from the Chairman of the Board to exempt from call-in a key decision concerning the Council's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

- 3.1 The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Board, Councillor Laurance Garrard, gave his agreement to the exemption from call-in for the following reason:
- 3.2 The Greater London Authority (GLA) notified the Council on 18th March that £800,000 had been awarded to Havering for community projects. Since accepting the funding was in the Council's best interests, call-in was waived so that the delivery plan and agreement could be submitted on time and meet the GLA's deadline of 31st March.

Financial Implications and Risks:

While there were financial implications around the decisions described in this report, there are none directly associated with this report.

Legal Implications and Risks:

There are no immediate legal implications directly associated with this report.

Human Resource Implications and Risks:

There are none directly associated with this report.

Equalities and Social Inclusion Implications and Risks:

There are none directly associated with this report.

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Background paper List

None