

---

# Scrutiny review of called-in decision: Response to Council Motion: decisions following public consultation

---

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	21 May 2026
<b>Resources and Place Scrutiny Chairman:</b>	Councillor Carlyne Culver
<b>Report Author:</b>	Stephen Chard
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	EX4761

---

## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the Executive of the outcome of the scrutiny review of this called-in decision.
- 1.2 This is provided in accordance with Part 6.9, Paragraph 17 of the Council's Constitution.

## 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 For Executive to be informed of the outcome of the scrutiny review of this called-in decision. The Scrutiny Committee resolved to let the decision stand as per the Executive's resolution. It can therefore be implemented with immediate effect.

## 3 Supporting Information

### Background

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 16 October 2025, a Motion was presented advocating that an explanatory statement should be published when a decision is made that is contrary to the option preferred by public consultation. The Council referred the Motion to the Executive for more detailed consideration.
- 3.2 At the Executive meeting on 19 March 2026, the Executive considered a report setting out the proposed response to the Motion and rationale for it. Following debate with the opposition, the Executive resolved to approve the recommendations:
  - (a) That the Executive is informed that The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require local authorities to provide a record of relevant decisions, the reasons for decisions and any options considered but rejected.
  - (b) That the Executive resolves to strengthen how the outcomes of consultations are reported through the Council's consultation database.

## Scrutiny review of called-in decision: Response to Council Motion: decisions following public consultation

- 3.3 On 26 March 2026, Councillors Ross Mackinnon, Dominic Boeck, Paul Dick, Paul Kander and Richard Somner put the Monitoring Officer on notice that they wished to call in this decision. They stated:

In our view the Executive report's recommendation is based on a flawed analysis, in particular:

*5.6 The Council's web-based database provides a comprehensive overview of consultations undertaken, providing details of the background, any proposals, the implications and impact, how somebody can contribute and what will happen following the consultation. However, it's not possible to see at a glance, looking at the list of consultations, what the broad outcome was in relation to the public's feedback. This can be easily rectified by categorising each consultation with an outcome as follows:*

- (a) Proceed - modified: proposal amended following consultation feedback.*
- (b) Proceed - unmodified: implemented as originally proposed following consultation.*
- (c) Did not proceed – this may be linked to the consultation or for other reasons.*
- (d) Decision pending: yet to be determined.*
- (e) No decision required: not linked to a specific decision but providing contextual feedback that informs future service delivery.*

The proposed categorisation does not provide clear information of which decisions have been made contrary to the option preferred by public consultation.

Also flawed is the conclusion in 6.2:

*It would be possible for the Council to issue an additional statement setting out information relating to the decision, the alternative options considered and the rationale for that decision. However, this option was rejected as it represented duplication of information already made available to the public.*

The information requested by the Motion is not duplicated anywhere else in an easily accessible format.

- 3.4 We propose an alternative course of action, being that the Executive resolves to accept the original motion and that a short statement be posted on an appropriate page of the Council's website when a decision is made that is contrary to the option preferred by public consultation.

## Scrutiny Review

- 3.5 The Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee considered the call-in request at its meeting on 12 May 2026. This took the form of:
- An overview of the Executive's decision from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jeff Brooks, which included an update on the enhancements that have been made to the information provided on the Council's website following consultation exercises.

**Scrutiny review of called-in decision: Response to Council Motion: decisions following public consultation**

- An explanation of the reasons for the call-in from the call-in Members and their proposed alternative course of action which, in summary, is the request for a short statement to be posted on the Council's website when a decision is made that is contrary to the option preferred by public consultation.
- A question and answer session, and debate on the matter.

3.6 At the conclusion of the debate, the Scrutiny Committee resolved to let the decision stand as per the Executive's resolution. It can therefore be implemented with immediate effect.

## 4 Appendices

None.

### Background Papers:

Report and appendices provided to the Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee on 12 May 2026.

### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

Report is to note only

