

Report to:	Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting	30 July 2015

CALL-IN REQUEST

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider the Call-in of Cabinet Member Decision PH41/2015 'Local Authority Nursery Review'.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the Call-in request and take action as follows:

a) refer the decision back to the Executive for reconsideration or refer the matter to full Council with, in either case, details of the Committee's concerns; or

b) take no further action on the decision (whereupon the decision will come into force and may be implemented immediately).

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the scrutiny process continues to be fully accountable and an important part of the democratic process.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 'Tackle child poverty, raise aspirations and improve educational achievement'.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The decision, attached at Appendix 2a (published on 20 July 2015) relates to the proposed consultation on future commissioning of nursery provision in local authority Children's Centres (Talbot and Brunswick and Grange Park) due to a saving being required as part of the Priority led Budget exercise.

5.2 The decision involved the Cabinet Member agreeing the following recommendations:

1. To agree to hold consultation with stakeholders that the local authority will no longer offer an in-house nursery or crèche provision for children.
2. To work with service users to determine an alternative method of support appropriate for them for the future, subject to the outcome of the consultation.
3. To authorise the Director of People, subject to a published officer decision, to take such action as is required following the consultation.

5.3 Councillor Williams has called-in the decision, the reasons for which are outlined in the call-in request document, attached at Appendix 2b.

5.4 The options available to the Committee are outlined at paragraph 2.1. It should be noted that if the matter is referred to Council, then Council will only have the option of:

- a) taking no further action (whereupon the decision will come into force and may be implemented immediately) or;
- b) refer the decision back to the Executive for reconsideration (unless it is proven that the Executive acted contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework).

5.5 Particular reference should be made to the extract at Appendix 3d of the Scrutiny Protocol relating to 'Call-In'.

5.6 Witnesses/representatives

5.6.1 As requested by the Committee members, the following persons have been invited to attend the meeting to speak on the matter:

- Councillor Williams
- Councillor Jones, Cabinet Member for School Improvement and Children's Safeguarding

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 2a, Executive decision PH41/2015

Appendix 2b, Request for Call-in of Executive decision PH41/2015

Appendix 2c, Call-in procedure (as per the Council's Constitution).

Appendix 2d, Extract from the Protocol on Scrutiny Committee / Cabinet Member / Officer Relations (section relating to Call-In).

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None