



Annual Council Meeting – 22 May 2024

Liberal Democrats Group amendment Agenda Item 11 – Review of arrangements for call-in of Executive decisions by scrutiny

Review of Call-In Arrangements

The replacement of the Committee system of decision making by Local Councils with a Cabinet/ Executive system was made by the Blair Labour Government.

The then Labour Government recognised that handing decision making power to a small group of councillors had to be balanced by a strong and effective scrutiny function. As part of this there had to be a meaningful ability of any councillor or Political Group to call-in decisions for review.

To ensure effective democratic practices in the London Borough of Brent it is essential to ensure that:

1. The Cabinet can make decisions based on sound information and advice; and
2. That Cabinet and their decisions can be held to account through an effective scrutiny process.

To maintain the objectives of effective democratic scrutiny, as intended by the Labour Government which introduced the current decision making process, we therefore propose, having taken account of the current review of arrangements for call-in:

- (1) That any Cabinet decision which has implications for the whole or a large part of the borough can be called in by any three Councillors (*for the avoidance of doubt these can be Councillors of one or more than one group*).
- (2) That any Cabinet decision which has implications for just one ward within the borough can be called in by any one councillor.
- (3) That's subject to the approval of (1) and (2) above the necessary amendments are made to Standing Order 14 (Call In of Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and Officer Decisions) to reflect the change in arrangements.

- (4) To confirm, the current arrangements for review by officers of any call-in to ensure that it is relevant and justified will remain in place.

Councillor Lorber

On behalf of the Liberal Democrats Group