

## DOCUMENT 1 – CALL IN REQUEST

**From:** Kate Haigh  
**Sent:** 10 March 2016 11:13  
**To:** Jon McGinty  
**Subject:** FW: Call in  
**Importance:** High

I wish to call-in the decision made by Cabinet last night in relation to the report on Voluntary and Community Sector Funding 2014-16 and proposal for 2016-17 funding.

I believe that this decision was not taken in accordance with Council Rules and Procedures in that there was insufficient detail in the report for Cabinet to take the decision.

In particular the Grants and Community Services Forum have not been consulted as required in the Constitution Part 3, section 15

**Role:**

(i) The Forum will play an advisory role on matters relating to grants and community services, making recommendations to the Cabinet and/or Corporate Director 2 as appropriate, where there is a majority view of the Forum.

There was no detailed consultation with the voluntary organisations through the Forum or elsewhere on the detail of the proposals.

Furthermore Members of the Council have not been formally consulted about proposed changes to the Members Allocation Fund. The report was not brought to Overview and Scrutiny.

There has been no People Impact Assessment (PIA) assessment. This must be completed prior to the taking of a decision by Cabinet. There is a strong risk that equalities groups may be disadvantaged by this change in policy and that it is open to legal challenge.

The effects to the change of funding to individual groups have not been considered – the report is silent and there is no evidence that they have been asked.

Groups that have received grants in the past but work across ward boundaries will not be able to secure funding centrally but will have to apply to a number of members with no fixed criteria to apply against. This places an additional burden on such groups.

There is no demonstration in the report of how the Council's vision and priorities are met by this change or how that will be monitored or measured.

The guidance, criteria and process adopted by the Council demonstrates that decisions to award grants are taken in a fair and transparent manner. Also, the written documentation of the award ensures that a successful organisation understands their obligations and the terms upon which the grant has been awarded. The shift to Councillors making grants is less fair and transparent as there is minimal documentation and oversight. The Cabinet Member made it clear that she saw the removal of detailed oversight by officers as an advantage of the proposals.

Councillor Kate Haigh