

<b>Committee:</b>  <b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY</b>	<b>Date:</b>  <b>17 December 2012</b>	<b>Classification:</b>  <b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Report No.</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>  <b>3.1</b>
<b>Report of:</b> <b>Service Head, Democratic Services</b>		<b>Title: Mayoral Executive Decision Call- in:</b>		
<b>Originating Officer(s):</b> <b>Matthew Mannion, Democratic Services</b>		<b>Mayor's Strategic MSG Programme</b>		
		<b>Wards: All</b>		

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** The attached report of the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal was considered by the Mayor on 30 November 2012 and has been "Called-In" by Councillors Joshua Peck, Motin Uz-Zaman, Bill Turner, Denise Jones and John Pierce. This is in accordance with the provisions of Part Four Sections 16 and 17 of the Council's Constitution.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1** That the Committee consider the contents of the attached report, review the Mayor's provisional decisions arising and
- 2.2** Decide whether to accept them or refer the matter back to the Mayor with proposals, together with reasons.

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### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**

#### List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

Brief description of "background paper"

**Mayoral Decision (No 19) – 30 November 2012**

Name and telephone number of holder  
and address where open to inspection

**Angus Taylor**  
**0207 3644333**

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** The request to call-in the Mayor's decision dated 30 November 2012 was submitted under Overview and Scrutiny (O and S) Procedure Rules Sections 16 and 17. It was considered by the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal Services who has responsibility under the constitution for calling in Mayoral decisions in accordance with agreed criteria. The call-in request fulfilled the required criteria and the decision is referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to consider whether or not to refer the item back to the Mayor for further consideration. Implementation of the Mayoral decision is suspended whilst the call-in is considered.

### **4. THE MAYOR'S PROVISIONAL DECISION**

- 4.1** The Mayor after considering the report attached, at Appendix 1, provisionally decided:-
- To confirm the funding awards for those main stream grant services set out in Appendix 1.
  - To agree funding on the basis of a 2-year 3-month Grant Agreement from January 2013 through to March 2015 as set out in paragraph 6.3 subject to the Council's annual agreement on budget settlements and the delivery of agreed outputs and outcomes.
  - To agree to the earmarking from general reserves of £695,000, over the 27 months from January 2013 to March 2015 to finance the additional recommended grant awards over indicative Directorate budgets for the grant agreement periods.
  - To confirm that unallocated Dedicated Schools Grant is earmarked for education specific projects, including increasing capacity for early years services, delivered primarily through the voluntary and community sector as set out in paragraph 6.11.
  - That officers keep under review caseloads associated with the provision of social welfare advice and report back to the Mayor, within 6 months, where appropriate considering the range and effectiveness of different channels and delivery methods used to reach those most in need of advice services, and addressing any identified gaps that may arise in service provision.
  - Authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) in consultation with the appropriate Chief Officer for the funding stream to settle the final terms of and enter into the grant agreements resulting from paragraphs 2.1.and 2.2 above.

- Note that a comprehensive Equalities Analysis has been completed demonstrating the due regard taken to the engagement of the public sector equality duty and the equalities impact of the recommendations as set out at Appendix 2.

#### **4.2 Reasons for Decisions**

These were detailed in section 3 of the report.

#### **4.3 Alternative Options Considered**

These were detailed in section 4 of the report.

### **5. REASONS / ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED FOR THE 'CALL IN'**

#### **5.1** The Call-in requisition signed by the five Councillors listed gives the following reason for the Call-in:

Given the significant changes to the proposals and the wide ranging public interest in this decision it is in the interests of all concerned for this decision to be reviewed by the O&S Committee. We are also aware that the O&S Committee has already expressed a unanimous view that this item should be called in for further scrutiny.

#### **5.2** The requisition also asked the Committee to consider a number of specific issues:

- That the Mayor broke his promise made at the last Cabinet meeting to announce his final decision on the allocation of Main Stream Grants in public amid the open and transparent scrutiny of a Cabinet meeting. By taking this decision in private by Mayoral decision, residents and democratically elected representatives were prevented from expressing their views on this significant allocation of funding.

- Despite numerous requests from opposition councillors of all parties and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee itself, very little detail of the process used to make this decision has been released by the Council. In the interests of transparency and openness it is important that the O&S Committee is able to review the original recommendations from officers and the changes made by the 3rd Sector Grants Board. Residents will also want to know that the geographic breakdown of the grant allocations is proportionate and not weighted to any specific areas.

- Whilst the Council continues to operate under significant financial pressures the Mayor has now decided to allocate £714,000 of additional funding from reserves. Rather than addressing the previous

concerns about the high funding levels for new, untested organisations with no track record of delivering for the community the Mayor has simply raided reserves to increase funding across the board. We ask officers to provide figures for the Committee to investigate the impact this decision will have on the longer term finances of the Council. We also ask that a clear breakdown of the source of this additional funding is provided including clarification about the movements between directorate budgets.

- Further to this, although the Mayor has chosen to reinstate some of the funding for many longstanding and well-used advice centres in the borough, for many, the allocations of funding still represent a cut. This is true even though the budget for Grants has increased by £1.65m this year.

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF THE “CALL IN”**

**6.1** Having met the call-in request criteria, the matter is referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to determine the call-in and decide whether or not to refer the item back to the Mayor.

**6.2** The following procedure is to be followed for consideration of the “Call In”:

- (a) Presentation of the “Call In” by one of the “Call In” Members followed by questions.
- (b) Response from the Lead Member/officers followed by questions.
- (c) General debate followed by decision.

**N.B. – In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Protocols and Guidance adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 5 June, 2007, any Member(s) who presents the “Call In” is not eligible to participate in the general debate.**

**6.3** It is open to the Committee to either resolve to take no action which would have the effect of endorsing the original Mayoral decision(s), or the Committee could refer the matter back to the Mayor for further consideration setting out the nature of its concerns and possibly recommending an alternative course of action.