

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23 OCTOBER 2008

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

5. CALL-IN: SPONSORSHIP OF ROUNDABOUTS

WARDS AFFECTED: All

RECOMMENDATION:

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 This report is intended to support the Environment Scrutiny Committee in examining the call-in of a non-key decision made by Councillor M G Carver, Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport on 26 September 2008, relating to the sponsorship of roundabouts.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 Effective use of the scrutiny process contributes to the Council's ability to:

Fit for purpose, services fit for you

"Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation"

and

Leading the way, working together

"Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public".

3.0 Report

3.1 A non-key decision regarding the sponsorship of roundabouts was made by Councillor M G Carver, the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport on 26 September 2008. This can be found at Appendix 'A' (pages 14 – 16).

3.2 Councillor M G Carver agreed the following:

“that the current pilot scheme for roundabout sponsorship be adopted on a permanent basis and expanded District-wide.”

- 3.3 In accordance with the Constitution, this decision has been called in by the following Members of the Council:

Councillors W Ashley, S A Bull, A L Burlton, J Demonti, R Gilbert and A L Warman

- 3.4 The call-in states:

“We wish to call in the Non Key decision made by Councillor Carver on the subject of Roundabout sponsorship.

The idea of sponsored roundabouts was to have enhanced planting of colourful and attractive roundabouts at the entrance to our towns and around the District.

The reality is not living up to the ideal. Even with the small amount of money which will be spent on low maintenance plants it falls far short of expectations.”

- 3.5 The Scrutiny Committee is therefore invited to consider the call-in as now detailed.
- 3.6 If having considered the decision, the Environment Scrutiny Committee is still concerned about it, then it may refer the matter to the Executive and the Executive must reconsider it within 21 days.
- 3.7 Alternatively, the Scrutiny Committee can refer the item to Council. If Council does not object to the original decision then no further action is necessary. If Council does object, it has no locus to make decisions in respect of the Executive decision unless it is contrary to the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly consistent with the budget. As the decision is not contrary to the policy framework etc, Council will refer the matter back with any views it may have.
- 3.8 The Executive then has the final decision and that decision should be made within 10 working days of the referral from Council.
- 3.9 On referral from the Scrutiny Committee to the Executive, the Executive should reconsider the matter within 21 days and come to a final decision.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 None.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The decisions taken by the Executive Member have been called-in by the Chief Executive in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution.

5.2 The Constitution enables a scrutiny committee to require the attendance of an Executive Member and/or officer at a meeting to explain, in relation to any matter within their remit:

- (i) any particular decision
- (ii) the extent to which actions taken implement Council policy, and/or
- (iii) their performance.

It is the duty of such persons to attend if so required. The Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport and appropriate Officers have been invited to attend at the request of the Committee Chairman.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resource Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Risk Management Implications

8.1 None.

Background Papers

None.

Contact Member: Councillor W Quince – Chairman of Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Contact Officer: Anne Freimanis, Chief Executive, Extn: 1403.

Report Authors: Martin Ibrahim, Senior Democratic Services Officer –
Extn: 2173.
Marian Langley, Scrutiny Officer – Extn: 1612.