

CALL IN REQUEST

Date of decision publication: **11/12/2023**

Delegated decision ref: **D56971**

Executive Board Minute no: N/A

Decision description: **Lawnswood Roundabout Improvement Scheme - Approval to Proceed with Further Development and Delivery**

Discussion with Decision Maker:

Prior to submitting a Call In, a nominated signatory must first contact the relevant officer or Executive Member to discuss their concerns and their reasons for wanting to call in the decision. Part of this discussion must include the Member ascertaining the financial implications of requesting a Call In.

Please identify contact and provide detail.

- Director/author of delegated decision report.
 Executive Board Member

Detail of discussion (to include financial implications)

Councillor Andrew Carter had a discussion with Martin Farrington (Director of City Development) and Gary Bartlett (Chief Highways Officer) on 15/12/2023. Reasons for calling-in the decision were discussed. During the discussion it was confirmed there were no financial implications of requesting a call-in.

Reasons for Call In:

All requests for Call In must detail why, in the opinion of the signatories, the decision was not taken in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 of the Council constitution (decision making) (principles of decision making) or where relevant issues do not appear to be taken into consideration. *Please tick the relevant box(es) and give an explanation.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proportionality (ie the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Respect for human rights
<input type="checkbox"/>	A presumption in favour of openness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
<input type="checkbox"/>	An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive promotion of equal opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural justice

Explanation

We have concerns about the value for money of these proposals, the proportionality of the scheme considering the amount of disruption and negative impacts it will cause and the sufficiency of the consultation that has taken place.

The most recent estimate of the total cost of the scheme was £13,050,442. We would question whether this is proportionate or represents good value for money, given that the project will likely lead to more congestion, rat running and worse air quality. The latest traffic modelling suggests that signalisation of the roundabout will result in *increases* to journey times for some general traffic movements, at some times of day. The WYCA project overview economic case for the project says the following: "The value for money assessment reflects a benefit cost ratio (BCR) of 0.28:1. This is categorised as poor value for money. The main reasons for this are the minor delays to general traffic that result from introducing traffic signals and signalled crossings. Without these disbenefits, the BCR is 1.7:1."

We also note from the Council report that embedded carbon associated with construction is expected to outweigh any carbon savings associated with the scheme, and that the report acknowledges it is possible that increases in air pollution or noise could occur in the vicinity of the roundabout, due to the changes in vehicle behaviour caused by signalisation of the roundabout.

In terms of consultation, we note that only 52.8% were in favour of the proposals and that those in favour focused on the perceived benefits for walkers and cyclers; 12.3% felt "Not sure/ok about it", and 35.0% felt "Unhappy" or "Very Unhappy". Negative comments tended to focus on perceived impacts on congestion and air quality. We would question how widespread the consultation was, given the current significant volume of traffic using the roundabout. There were 607 respondents to the consultation, in the context of the roundabout accommodating over 45,000 motor vehicle movements on a typical weekday. We feel that the consultation has therefore not captured a sufficient number of the people likely to be most impacted by the proposed scheme.

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A Call In request may be made by a **minimum** of:

5 non-executive Members of council from the **same political group**;

or;

2 non-executive Members of council if **they are not from the same political group**.

This Call In request should be submitted to Scrutiny Support, 1st Floor West, Civic Hall by 5.00pm by no later than the fifth working day after the decision publication date. The following signatories (**original signatures only**) request that the above decision be called in.

Nominated Signatory 
Print name **Councillor Andrew Carter**
Political Group **Conservative Group**

Signature 
Print name **Councillor Barry Anderson**
Political Group **Conservative Group**

Signature 
Print name **Councillor Caroline Anderson**
Political Group **Conservative Group**

Signature 
Print name **Councillor Billy Flynn**
Political Group **Conservative Group**

Signature 
Print name **Councillor Neil Buckley**
Political Group **Conservative Group**

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

L. S. Buckley
Signature
Print name **Councillor Lyn Buckley**
Political Group **Conservative Group**

Amanda Carter
Signature
Print name **Councillor Amanda Carter**
Political Group **Conservative Group**

Signature.....
Print name
Political Group.....

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Political Group.....

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

For office use only: (box A)

Received on behalf of the Head of Democratic Services by:

Rebecca Atherton

Date: 18 December 2023 Time: 10.50am SSU ref: 2023/79

For office use only: (box B)

Exemption status
checked:

Call In authorised: Yes

Date checked:

Signed: Rebecca Atherton

Signatures checked:

Date: 18 December 2023

Receipts given:

Validity re article 13