

CALL IN REQUEST

Date of decision publication: 21/06/2024

Delegated decision ref: N/A

Executive Board Minute no: **Minute 7**

Decision description: ...Little Owls Nurseries Review.....

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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)

A meeting was held with the delegated decision maker on 27/06/2024, reasons for the decision and the outcome of the report were discussed. The financial implications of the decision were discussed, there are no additional financial implications of this 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Respect for human rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A presumption in favour of openness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive promotion of equal opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural justice

Explanation

Proportionality

As the decision is predominantly financial the cost saving does not justify the impact of the closures of the little owls centres. These closures will transform the sector and as such the decision needs to look beyond the financial impact.

Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers

Key stakeholders have not been properly consulted in a thorough fashion, public consultations were held at a times inconvenient for parents for them to provide adequate feedback. Letters sent out in march stated that three centres would close in May and therefore the decision seems to have already been made to close the centres long before any consultation or appropriate scrutiny of the decision.

The figures used to assess alternative provision in the localities concerned by the council is significantly different to that found by actual parent surveys.

Respect for human rights

Article 28 of the UNCRC guarantees the right of every child to an education, this decision will see that right curtailed particularly for the most vulnerable in our society.

An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision

Where is the explanation of alternatives considered and the financial analysis of these alternatives along with a variability study in relation to little owls? The council has failed to look at alternative cost savings as this is primarily a financial decision.

A presumption in favour of openness

There has been a lack of transparency with regards to sharing key information such as the proposed budgetary savings and the methodology, nor were the FAQ pages updated in a timely fashion which meant key information was missing during the consultation period resulting in parents not being allowed to make informed considerations when providing feedback as such parents did not have 'sufficient information to give intelligent consideration' as The Gunning Principles of public consultation require.

Positive promotion of equality of opportunities

The decision fails to appropriately consider the negative impact on life opportunities for both children and parents from particularly in deprived areas. Affordable childcare offers access to education and grants parents the freedom to undertake paid work, this lack of provision will impact the parents' ability to do so. Places at alternative little owls sites are not suitable due to them being out of walking distance and the lack of direct public transport. Not all parents that use little owls have access to cars and therefore will not be able to take up provision offered at alternative little owls centres.

Furthermore, there is no guarantee of being able to receive the same time slots for childcare nor the guarantee of the same number of hours.

This will disproportionately affect vulnerable families which will place an additional burden from the loss of the opportunity to work and access to education.

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support


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	MOTHIN ALI	
Print name Councillor	MOTHIN ALI	
Political Group	GREEN PARTY	

Signature		
Print name Councillor	LOU WNNINGHAM	
Political Group	GREEN PARTY	

Signature		
Print name Councillor	TIM GOODALL	
Political Group	GREEN PARTY	

Signature		
Print name Councillor	ED CARLISLE	
Political Group	GREEN	

Signature		
Print name Councillor	PENNY STARLES	
Political Group	GREEN PARTY,	

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

For office use only: (box A)

Received on behalf of the Head of Democratic Services by:

.Robert Clayton.....(signature)

Date: 28/06/2024 Time: 11.15 SSU ref: 2024/25 - 80 (i)

For office use only: (box B)

Exemption status checked:

Call In authorised: Yes

Date checked:

Signed: Robert Clayton

Signatures checked: **YES**

Date: 28 June 2024

Receipts given:

Validity re article 13