

From Cllr Robert Finnigan
Leader - Morley Borough Independents

I have been asked to comment on the report to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny on 11th September.

No cogent argument has been put that change is necessary.

The suggestion made that present arrangements might not work because the MBIs will always side with the Administration does not stand up to any vigorous analysis. The MBIs will take independent lines on many issues, often in isolation, such as opposition to Supertram, Super Casino proposals or finance of the proposed Leeds Dance School. It would be an absurd argument to suggest we should change the Call In arrangements on the basis that all the other Groups on the Council don't support our position on these matters.

The MBIs have never refused any reasonable request to call in a decision and this is confirmed within the report at paragraph 3.7. Indeed we would argue that with 3 groups outside the Administration, the ability to call in a decision has become easier as both the Greens and the MBIs could be party to a call in request.

This request appears to have more to do with political posturing than any evidence based representation which shows that present system is working unreasonably or unfairly. We do not support any change to the Call In arrangements at this time.

Cllr Robert Finnigan
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