

Call-in request form

Decision taken by: Cabinet/Portfolio Holder/Officer (please indicate)

Date of Decision 04.02.2020 (Published 06.02.2020)

Title of agenda item/report ITEM 9: WELL-MANAGED HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

Reason for Call In**

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT

- (7)
- (8)
- (11)



Call In Signatories (to be signed by 6 Members)

- (1) Signed Councillor
- (2) Signed Councillor
- (3) Signed Councillor

- (4) Signed Councillor
- (5) Signed Councillor
- (6) Signed Councillor



Date of call in Notice

****The Call-in rules as set out in the constitution stipulate that any 6 or more Members of the Council may submit a call-in notice in writing within 5 days of the decision being taken and recorded for one of the reasons set out below. In giving reasons for the call in, Members should consider the following criteria AND explain how any of them apply. Failure to provide sufficient detail may lead to the call in being refused:**

- Decision is taken outside the policy/budgetary framework*
- Inadequate consultation relating to the decision*
- Relevant information not considered*
- Viable alternatives not considered*
- Justification for the decision open to challenge on the basis of the evidence considered*

Head of legal Services and Monitoring Officer Signature



14.02.20

Call In Request

Decision taken by: **Cabinet**
Date of Decision: **04.02.20** (published 06.02.20)
Title of agenda item 9: **Well Managed Highway Infrastructure**
Principle Concern: **A Failure of Effective Consultation and Inclusion with reference to the Well Managed Highways Infrastructure Policies and Plans.**

The following grounds are engaged in support of this Call-In.

4.28.2 Inadequate consultation relating to the decision

4.28.3 Relevant information not considered

4.28.2 Inadequate consultation relating to the decision

Our concerns focus specifically on the Consultation Processes conducted prior to the Cabinet decision to approve the Well-Managed Highways Infrastructure Strategy and the impact on Cheshire East Highways Gritting Policies.

Highways gritting policy is alluded to in the Cheshire East Local Transport Plan, (LTP) (Action 9.1.5, page 115) but was not included in the LTP consultation process (1st May 2018 to 25th June 2018).

This was followed by a Consultation related to the Well Managed Highways Policy Infrastructure Strategy. This was conducted during the summer months (July/August 2018) therefore the prominence of the consultation was diminished.

Consultation related to Winter and Adverse Weather would have been better served as a stand-alone engagement.

NO record of any consultation related to the Well-Managed Highways Strategy (July/August 2018) or the results of such a survey has ever been up-loaded onto the relevant 'Consultation Results' page of the Cheshire East Council website for public scrutiny. This is contrary to CEC Policy.

The Winter and Adverse Weather Policy (included as Appendix 6 on 04.02.2020) states: *"Risk assessments are undertaken by CEH Winter Service staff to determine the inclusion of an element of the network into the Treated Network, with consideration to a number of factors."*

The risk assessment framework and associated results of this exercise should have been publicly available prior to the decision being taken. Insufficient weight was given to local knowledge with no acknowledgement or discussion of relevant feed-back.

At the Cabinet meeting of 04/02/20 Council Members, members of our teaching community, and members of the public expressed concern about the removal of winter gritting to multiple routes throughout our borough; all agreed there had been poor communication since the Consultation in 2018

- Under 100 respondents to the consultation from a population of 375 000 gives rise to the question how well did we promote the consultation?
- Only 1 school responded to the consultation
- Insufficient weight has been given to Member feedback and their local knowledge
- No confidence in, or evidence given that Cabinet gave due consideration to Scrutiny's recommendations

4.28.3: Relevant Information not considered.

Information should have been disseminated to partners in a more effective manner and crucial information has not been made unavailable to Members and partners.

- No grit bin policy has been made available to support the decision taken. This is essential based on the significance of this policy.
- The Risk Assessment scoring criteria that determines which roads are to be gritted (or not), were not made public in advance of Cabinet's Decision.
- To date, this data has still not been published (12.02.20).
- Cabinet were asked by Councillors and members of the public to reconsider or defer this decision. Despite the lack of transparent information and the limited historic consultation data, Cabinet proceeded to approve a policy which is unsatisfactory and potentially jeopardises the safety of our residents.

This leaves no alternative than to submit this Call-In request.

Signatories:

Cllr Rachel Bailey
Cllr Mike Benson
Cllr Liz Wardlaw

4) Cllr Margaret Simon
5) Cllr Janet Clowes
6) Cllr Allen Gage

7) Cllr Peter Groves
8) Cllr Charlotte Leach
9) Cllr Tony Dean

12.02.2020.

