

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2024**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Mahmut Aksanoglu (Vice-Chair), Maria Alexandrou, Nawshad Ali, Kate Anolue, Hivran Dalkaya, James Hockney, Michael Rye OBE and Nia Stevens

ABSENT Margaret Greer (Chair)

STATUTORY CO-OPTES: *1 vacancy (Church of England diocese representative), vacancy (other faiths/denominations representative), vacancy (Catholic diocese representative), Alicia Meniru & 1 vacancy (Parent Governor representative) - Italics Denotes absence*

OFFICERS: Doug Wilkinson (Director of Environment & Street Scene), David B Taylor (Head of Highways, Traffic & Parking) Stacey Gilmour (Secretary), Jennifer Cole (Governance Officer-Observing), Sakinah Sutherland (Governance Officer-Observing)

Also Attending: Cllr Adrian Grumi (Call-In Lead Member), Cllr Rick Jewell, (Cabinet Member for Environment), Local Press Officer

WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Cllr Aksanoglu, Chair of the meeting in Cllr Greer's absence, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Margaret Greer who was substituted by Cllr Nia Stevens.

The Chair detailed the procedure of the meeting and outlined how the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would consider the reasons for call in.

The Committee noted that Councillor Adrian Grumi would present the reasons for the call-in as the Lead Call-in Member.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received regarding any item on the agenda.

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DECISION CALLED-IN - NON-KEY- APPROVE THE INTRODUCTION OF BOWES ROAD BUS LANE

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee were to consider and review the Non-Key Decision - Approve the Introduction of Bowes Road Bus Lane - taken on 3 April 2024 and included on the Publication of Decision List No. 61/23-24.

The decision had been called in for review by 8 members of the Council, namely Councillors: Adrian Grumi (Lead), Emma Supple, Edward Smith, Paul Pratt, Elisa Morreale, Lee Chamberlain, Tom O'Halloran and Chris Joannides.

The report sets out the officer response to the reasons for call-in.

Reasons for the call-in were presented by Councillor Adrian Grumi, Lead Call-in Member for the decision.

Cllr Grumi summarised the reasons for the call-in of the decision.

Cllr Grumi asked that Members refer the decision back to the decision taker for reconsideration.

Cllr Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment and Officers spoke in response to the reasons for call-in, and questions posed by Members of the committee stating that; following extensive engagement and consultation, the proposed plan had been updated and the scheme was now only set to operate at peak times (and not twelve hours daily as was the intention in the original proposal). In response to concerns that the scheme is going to make traffic congestion worse, Officers said that they did not believe this to be the case as the way the scheme is being developed will maintain the capacity for vehicles travelling from Bowes Road on to the North Circular Road. The proposal is for the scheme to be implemented on an experimental basis so that the impact of it can be better understood before the decision is made permanent. This will allow the council a period of time in which to monitor the effects of the scheme. Success criteria will include monitoring bus journey times (which will be a critical factor), queues of traffic/set back times as well as feedback from bus operators, TFL and the local community. Traffic counters will also be installed to monitor speed and volume. In response to questions regarding the loss of residential parking, Officers advised that the proposals delete only 7 parking spaces from the northern side, returning a similar number to the southern kerbside. As well as this, only 2 fronting homes from 27 lack off-street parking space therefore on balance, the benefits of transport users are significant and outweigh any parking issues.

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ORIGINAL DECISION OF CALL-IN (NON-KEY)

Cllr Grumi summarised the points made during the discussion and reiterated his view that Members should refer the decision back to the decision taker.

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The Chair summarised the key points made throughout the discussion and took Members of the committee through the options available to them, namely: refer the decision back to the decision-making person/body for reconsideration; refer the matter to full Council; or confirm the original decision.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the reasons provided for the Call-In and responses set out in the Officer's report. Having considered the verbal responses and the information presented by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Jewell, and relevant Officers; the Committee **AGREED** to confirm the original decision made by the Cabinet.

5 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members **NOTED** that the dates of future meetings will be confirmed following Annual Council on Wednesday 15 May 2024.