

## London Borough of Enfield

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date 21 July 2021

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**Subject:** Call in -Enfield Healthy Streets Framework

**Cabinet Member:** N/A

**Key Decision:** N/A

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### Purpose of Report

1. This report details a call-in submitted in relation to the following decision:

Cabinet decision (taken on 18 June 2021). This has been “Called In” by 7 members of the Council; Councillors Maria Alexandrou, Joanne Laban, Andrew Thorp, Glynis Vince, Edward Smith, Michael Rye and Lindsay Rawlings.

Details of this decision were included on Publication of Decision List No.6/21-22 (Ref. 1/6/21-22 – issued on 18 June 2021)

In accordance with the Council’s Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the decision that has been called-in for review.

### Proposal(s)

2. That Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the called-in decision and either:
  - (a) Refers the decision back to the decision-making person or body for reconsideration setting out in writing the nature of its concerns. The decision-making person or body then has 14 working days in which to reconsider the decision; or
  - (b) Refer the matter to full Council; or
  - (c) Confirm the original decision.

Once the Committee has considered the called-in decision and makes one of the recommendations listed at (a), (b) or (c) above, the call-in process is completed. A decision cannot be called in more than once.

If a decision is referred back to the decision-making person or body; the implementation of that decision shall be suspended until such time as the decision making person or body reconsiders and either amends or confirms the decision, but the outcome on the decision should be reached within 14 working days of the reference back. The Committee will subsequently be informed of the outcome of any such decision

## **Relevance to the Council's Plan**

3. The council's values are upheld through open and transparent decision making and holding decision makers to account.

## **Background**

4. The request (24 June 2021) to "call-in" the Cabinet decision of 18 June 2021 was submitted under rule 18 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules. It was considered by the Monitoring Officer.

The Call-in request fulfilled the required criteria and the decision is referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in order to consider the actions stated under 2 in the report.

Implementation of the Portfolio decision related to this report will be suspended whilst the "Call-in" is considered.

## **Reasons and alternative course of action proposed for the "Call in"**

5. The Call-in request submitted by (7) Members of the Council gives the following reasons for Call-In:

### **Call In - Enfield Healthy Streets Framework**

#### **Activity 1**

- Paragraph one talks of a dedicated cycling infrastructure and to improve the pedestrian environment. Yet again cyclists are favoured and pedestrians appear to be pushed to second best. This will not be the incentive needed to get people to walk more short journeys.
- Paragraph two - further development of the existing cycle hubs at train stations. There are no details as to how these are being used at present. Are they full or is there unused space?
- Paragraph four talks about getting people to switch shorter journeys from car to foot or cycle but there is little or no mention of public transport within any of these six activities. This would help not only with shorter journeys but longer ones to.
- The same paragraph talks about people who walk or cycle to local town centres spending more than those arriving by car or public transport but there is no data mentioned to support this assertion.

#### **Activity 2**

- Paragraph one says about danger from motor vehicles. For pedestrians there is also danger from the unlawful but increasing use of electric scooters and cyclists riding on the pavement. No mention is made of these two factors which cause alarm particularly for the elderly and disabled.
- The final paragraph says that fear of traffic is a reason people often give for choosing not to walk or cycle. There are many other reasons, inclement

weather, where to leave a bicycle at destination, carrying shopping if walking etc. but no other reasons are talked about or dealt with in these activities.

### **Activity 3**

- Paragraph two says 'we will SEEK to involve those with protected characteristics in the project design .....

### **Activity 4**

- This, and activity 6, should be much higher up the list. Although the word proactively is used there is no other mention of exactly how they will ensure that a wide range of views and opinions are heard, listened to and acted upon. Simply saying there will be consultation is not good enough. For these schemes to have any chance of success a wide ranging and extensive consultation is needed.

### **Activity 6**

- This should have been activity 1. Simply putting things in place does not work if residents feel they have been imposed and can't understand the reasons behind them.
- Point 2.f.i - yet again we are saying we are delivering Cycle Enfield whilst then going on to say encouraging more walking in the Borough. The title needs to be changed so that more people understand what is trying to be done.
- Point 10 - This is one of the few references to public transport services. If one of the rationale behind Healthy Streets is to have less use of cars then getting people to use public transport needs to be supported alongside cycling and walking.
- Point 41 - Although the sentence says 'these indicators will include but will not be limited to increases in....' there is only one mention specifically related to pedestrians and this is an increase in crossing facilities whereas there are three related specifically to cycling. This does make it seem that cycling is still the preferred way for people to get about and walking is just added as an afterthought. This will not help to change attitudes to Healthy Streets.
- Point 55 - this mentions an increase in trips made by active, efficient and sustainable modes but doesn't say what percentage increase is needed to make a difference. This should be included in order for residents to see how much or how little could help the climate.
- Point 57 - Community engagement - council needs to recognise that not everyone has access to a computer or knows how to use one. Other ways to feed back concerns etc. need to be used and advertised.
- Annex A - point 1.4 - This mentions a 2016 Analysis of Walking Potential and then states that the majority of trips are below 5km and could be cycled. This is using data from one survey specifically about walking for another use and hopefully not suggesting that 5km could easily be walked as well.

- Point 1.5 - This is a minor point but there is a mixing of metric and imperial measurements i.e. 500m and up to a mile. Please use one or the other and, if possible use both as there are many older residents who would not be able to visualise distances in metric.

### **Consideration of the “Call in”**

6. Having met the “Call-in” request criteria, the matter is referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to determine the “Call-in” and decide which action listed under section 2 that they will take.

The following procedure is to be followed for consideration of the “Call-in”:

- The Chair explains the purpose of the meeting and the decisions which the Committee is able to take.
- The Call-in lead presents their case, outlining the reasons for call in.
- The Cabinet Member/ Decision maker and officers respond to the points made.
- General debate during which Committee members may ask questions of both parties with a view to helping them make up their mind.
- The Call in Lead sums up their case.
- The Chair identifies the key issues arising out of the debate and calls for a vote after which the call in is concluded. If there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the Chair will have a second or casting vote.
- It is open to the Committee to either;
  - take no further action and therefore confirm the original decision
  - to refer the matter back to Cabinet -with issues (to be detailed in the minute) for Cabinet to consider before taking its final decision.
  - to refer the matter to full Council for a wider debate (NB: full Council may decide either to take no further action or to refer the matter back to Cabinet with specific recommendations for them to consider prior to decision taking)

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

7. To comply with the requirements of the Council’s Constitution, scrutiny is essential to good governance, and enables the voice and concerns of residents and communities to be heard and provides positive challenge and accountability.

### **Safeguarding Implications**

8. There are no safeguarding implications.

### **Public Health Implications**

9. There are no public health implications.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

10. There are no equality implications.

### **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

11. There are no environmental and climate change considerations.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken**

12. There are no key risks associated with this report.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks**

13. There are no key risks associated with this report.

### **Financial Implications**

14. There are no financial implications

### **Legal Implications**

15. S 21, S 21A-21C Local Government Act 2000, s.19 Police and Justice Act 2006 and regulations made under s.21E Local Government Act 2000 define the functions of the Overview and Scrutiny committee. The functions of the committee include the ability to consider, under the call-in process, decisions of Cabinet, Cabinet Sub-Committees, individual Cabinet Members or of officers under delegated authority.

Part 4, Section 18 of the Council's Constitution sets out the procedure for call-in. Overview and Scrutiny Committee, having considered the decision may: refer it back to the decision-making person or body for reconsideration; refer to full Council or confirm the original decision.

The Constitution also sets out at section 18.2, decisions that are exceptions to the call-in process.

### **Workforce Implications**

16. There are no workforce implications

### **Property Implications**

17. There are no property implications

### **Other Implications**

18. There are no other implications

### **Options Considered**

19. Under the terms of the call-in procedure within the Council's Constitution, Overview & Scrutiny Committee is required to consider any eligible decision

called-in for review. The alternative options available to Overview & Scrutiny Committee under the Council's Constitution, when considering any call-in, have been detailed in section 2 above

## **Conclusions**

20. The Committee following debate at the meeting will resolve to take one of the actions listed under section 2 and the item will then be concluded.

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## **Appendices**

Cabinet Report including annexes  
Response to Call in reasons

## **Background Papers**

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:  
None