

Protocol – Councillor Call for Action

1. The Councillor Call for Action is a mechanism for enabling elected members to bring matters of ward concern to the attention of the Council, via the Scrutiny process.

2. The Constitution provides that any councillor may request that an item is placed on a Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda, for consideration. The member making that request does not have to be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Inclusion of the matter on the agenda is at the discretion of the chairman.

3. The Constitution also provides for the consideration of petitions submitted by members of the public. Ward councillors may encourage citizens to submit petitions as means of bringing issues of concern to the Council's attention.

4. The Call for Action is deemed to be an option of "last resort". A Call for Action will only be included on the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda if the Chairman, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Corporate Director or Monitoring Officer, is satisfied that:

- the councillor has made all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter via direct liaison with council officers and/or relevant partners; and
- the issue of concern is a matter in respect of which the council has a statutory power or duty to deal with and is not precluded by adopted council policy or legislation; and
- the issue of concern has a demonstrable impact on a part or the whole of the councillor's ward; and
- the Call for Action does not, in any event, relate to:

(a) any matter relating to a planning decision;

(b) any matter relating to a licensing decision;

(c) any matter relating to an individual or entity in respect of which that individual or entity has a right of recourse to a review or right of appeal conferred by or under any enactment;

(d) any matter which is vexatious, discriminatory or not reasonable to be included in the agenda for, or to be discussed at, a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or at a meeting of a sub-committee thereof.

(e) any matter which is deemed a local crime and disorder matter for the purposes of Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

5. A valid Call for Action will be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee or at a Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, within 10 working days of validation, whichever is the sooner.
6. The subject matter of the Call for Action will be the subject of a report from the relevant Corporate Director, with such supporting information and evidence as is reasonably available. If the matter also or exclusively entails consideration of information held by another public body or partner, an appropriate representative shall be invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to provide that information, make representations and answer questions.
7. The Call for Action will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in public session unless consideration of the issues involves the disclosure of exempt or confidential information as defined by the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution.
8. A ward councillor may address the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Call for Action for up to 10 minutes.
9. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also consider representations from any citizens of the ward affected by the Call for Action, subject to the discretion of the chairman.
10. If the Call for Action concerns issues that fall within the remit of a Policy Committee the relevant Chairman of Committee shall also attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to answer questions and make any representations.
11. The ward councillor's role in the consideration of the Call for Action, as with any other formal Council business, is subject to compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct.