Form to call in a decision - please complete all fields marked *

If you require any assistance, please contact Democratic Services on 020 8541 9122.

Tour Details				
First Name *	Lance			
Surname *	Spencer			
Decision-making body * X Cabinet Committees in Common				
 Strategic Investment Board Buckinghamshire Council and Surrey Couty Council Trading Standards Joint Committee 				
Decision take	n *			
	d Guildford Active Travel Scheme - Independent Technical Of Section 1 For Consideration To Proceed			
Date decision	taken * 29 October 2024			

Reason(s) for calling in the decision

Va.... Data!la

In spite of overwhelming evidence, from multiple sources, supporting the recommendation in the report, Cabinet rejected the recommendation. In doing so they have departed from adopted and published SCC policy, and failed to consider the ramifications of this decision, including, but not limited to, the potential loss of £6 million of funding from Active Travel England, the deliverability of the Guildford Local Plan's strategic site allocations which were dependent on the implementation of a sustainable movement corridor along London Road, which the proposed scheme was proposing to deliver in considerable part, multiple previous assessments which have assessed this section of London Road as not meeting relevant safety standards for cyclists and pedestrians, or that the decision not to proceed was done in such a way that no indication has been given of the alternative intentions for London Road.

Comments by Cabinet members at the meeting made clear that their decision to reject the recommendation was solely on the grounds that the scheme would not be sufficiently safe for disabled pedestrians, but no evidence in support of that view was presented at the meeting other than hearsay, and the Cabinet members failed to consider the safety of London Road as it currently exists and whether the recommended scheme would represent a net improvement or reduction in safety for disabled people along the road. By contrast, the evidence in the report did indicate that the scheme would be safe and would be an improvement in safety for all roadpuses 67

Desired outcome

Consideration of the reasons for the Cabinet's decision, evaluation of whether available evidence supports this decision, especially in terms of safety and risk assessments for vulnerable groups, consideration of the net impact on the decision on safety along London Road and on the deliverability of the Guildford Local Plan, consideration of whether it would be desirable, in the event of the scheme not proceeding, for an alternative scheme for London Road to be developed, clarity as to what will happen to the Active Travel England funding for the scheme in the event of the scheme not going ahead, and evaluation of whether or not the decision should be reconsidered by Cabinet or Full Council.

Identified evidence

The item report and appendices as considered by Cabinet, officer professional opinion, and documents/policies referenced in the report. Any additional internal documents, reports and assessments around the safety of the scheme proposals, details of how the design has been revised over time, and previous assessments of the safety and acceptability of the existing London Road layout and pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Desired Witnesses

SCC officers Owen Jenkins and Roger Williams Representative from GBC Planning Policy team

Authors of Arup design review of section 1 of the London Road active travel scheme

Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth Cabinet Member for Environment

Member calling in decision

1.	Member *			
١.	Member	Lance Spencer, Vice C	Chair	
Date	of call-in			
Date of call in		05/11/2024		
2.	Member			
3.	Member			
Committee responsible for examining this decision				
Adults and Health			X Communities, Environment & Highways	
☐ Children, Families & Lifelong Learning			Resources & Performance	

Call-in by Select Committee

Select Committees have the power to call in decisions made, but not yet implemented, by the Cabinet and/or committees of the Cabinet if they feel that the decision is inappropriate. Implementation will be delayed while the Select Committee meets.

A decision can be 'called in' for scrutiny by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the relevant Committee or by any two or more Committee members from more than one political party. A decision must be 'called in' within five days of publication of the decision by the Cabinet and/or local committees (decisions must be published within three working days of the Cabinet and/or local committee meeting). The Chairman of the Select Committee must then call a meeting of the Committee within another ten working days.

The Select Committee can interview the Cabinet Member and/or Council officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements to the decision.

Issues to consider when deciding whether to call in a decision:

- Has the Cabinet adequately taken account of the appropriate Select Committee's views?
- Can the query be satisfied without a call-in?
- Is call-in constitutionally possible (e.g. Is the issue a Cabinet decision)?
- Can you build the case for a call-in? You will need to work with the Democratic Services Officer for the Committee to identify evidence and plan an approach.

Please submit your call in form to the Scrutiny Business Manager who will liaise with the Monitoring Officer and will take a view on whether this call in can proceed.

