

Report to: Annual Full Council Meeting – 20 May 2025

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Peacock, Strategy, Performance & Finance

Director Lead: Sue Bearman, Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill, Business Manager - Elections and Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Ext. 5243

Report Summary	
Report Title	Call-In Annual Report
Purpose of Report	To update Full Council on call-in requests received during the 2024-25 municipal year.
Recommendations	That Members note the content of the report.
Reason for Recommendation	To comply with the call-in procedure rules in the Council's Constitution.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The use of the Council's call-in procedure is monitored annually in accordance with the Call-in Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution. This is the first report to Full Council since the Call-in Procedure was adopted in May 2022, as previously there have been nil returns.
- 1.2 Executive decisions (i.e. those taken by Cabinet, Committees of Cabinet and Cabinet Portfolio Holders) can be called-in for consideration by a Call-In Sub-Committee of Policy and Performance Improvement Committee. Any call-in delays the implementation of a decision. While it is an important check and balance under Executive Arrangements, it can have an impact on the speed of decision making in an authority if it is used extensively.
- 1.3 This report summarises the use of call-in from May 2024 to the end of April 2025.

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer received one call-in request in 2024-25. On 22 January 2025, five Members submitted a call-in notice in relation to a decision made by Cabinet on 21 January 2025 regarding the disposal of land at Lowfield Lane, Balderton. The grounds

for the call-in were that the decision was not made in accordance with the Council's decision-making principles and was not in the public interest. The call-in was determined to be invalid on the basis the notice did not contain sufficient information, did not properly specify at least one of the grounds detailed in the call-in procedure rules, and raised a question already answered in the report relating to the decision.

- 2.2 The small number of call-ins is an indication that the call-in process is not being used to cause unnecessary delay or frustration of the decision-making process. No amendments are proposed to the call-in procedure at the present time.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

3.2 Legal Implications (LEG2425/9773)

In accordance with the Call-In Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Notice of Call-in of Decision dated 22 January 2025

Decision in relation to Call-in Notice dated 24 January 2025

Cabinet meeting 21 January 2025 – Item 231 'Lowfield Lane Disposal' -

<https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=288&MIId=1016>

The Call-in Procedure is at page D46 of the Council's Constitution - [https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/your-council/councillors-and-committees/councilx27s-constitution-/Constitution-\(Complete-Version---20.02.25\).pdf](https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/your-council/councillors-and-committees/councilx27s-constitution-/Constitution-(Complete-Version---20.02.25).pdf)