

Request for call in to O&S Committee

1. Names of councillors requesting call-in:

Cllr Shoob

Cllr McConville

Cllr Fuller

2. Decision being objected to

Decision no. 22/015 (To receive and note C/22/15; To approve the recommended High Street Fund grant applications as summarised this report.). Regarding High Street Fund grant to The Looker Newspaper Ltd for £18,711.60.

3. Reasons for the call-in request

1. It specifies inadequate evidence on which to base the decision

- There was no formal disclosure of Cllr David Wimble's interest in the information supplied on which the panel was asked to base their decision.
- When queried with officers, documentary evidence of applicant's business funds appear to be absent.

2. It specifies insufficient consideration of the advice of the statutory officers

- The application was given a relatively low score by officers (13/25). Considering this was a grant application for a relatively large sum of money (£18,711.60) compared to most other awarded grants, the decision by the leader appears to have been given insufficient consideration of the advice of officers and exceptional circumstances do not appear to be evident.

4. Officers and members, the councillors calling in the matter, wish to hear from

Cllr Monk

Ewan Green

5. Matters that the councillors, who called in the decision, wish to ask questions on

- Processual matters including who sits on the panel, who attended the panel, when was the panel arranged, when did it take place and who was there.

- Processual matters relating to how declarations of interest are made on the high street applications. Was the information supplied sufficient for panel members to make both a practical and ethical decision?
- What scores have been given in the past to high street fund applications? What amounts are usually awarded? What constitute exceptional circumstances for more than 50% of match funding to be awarded?
- What other possible conflicts of interest, for instance political interest, arise in this particular instance? Were these considered and declared? Should they be?