

**BUSINESS SUPPORT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

2 JULY 2009

CALL IN: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Communities and Culture

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Summary

This report details the call-in request from the Liberal Democrat Group of Cabinet decisions 81 and 82/2009 and asks Members to consider these decisions and either support the Cabinet's decisions or report back to Cabinet with a different recommendation.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 In accordance with chapter 4, part 5, paragraph 16.3 of the constitution with regard to decisions, the Cabinet decisions 81 and 82/2009 have been called in to this Committee by six Members of the Liberal Democrat Group. The reasons for the call-in are detailed in paragraph 2.3.

2. Background

2.1 On 12 May 2009 the Cabinet considered a report detailing the proposals in the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and considers the case for the Council to make proposals pursuant to the provisions of the Act. These are attached at appendix 1 to this report.

2.2 The Cabinet made the following decisions:

Decision 81/2009

The Cabinet noted the potential of the Sustainable Communities Act as a tool to improve the sustainability of local communities in Medway but reaffirmed the current measures already in place to achieve many of those aims as set out in the report.

Decision 82/2009

The Cabinet agreed to review the experience of others in implementing the Sustainable Communities Act and to consider its use in Medway in the light of lessons learned once schemes have been put into practice elsewhere.

Reasons:

These decisions recognise the work the council is already undertaking to strengthen community engagement and Council priorities.

2.3 The reasons for the call-in request from the Liberal Democrat group is stated as:

1. "We wish to call this in to Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as the powers available should be used in the interests of the people of Medway.

3. Director's comments

3.1 The Sustainable Communities Act is intended to provide Councils with powers to encourage local communities to come forward with ideas and proposals to promote the sustainability of their local area e.g. tackle a local problem or achieve a better outcome for local people. However, the Council already has a range of measures in place to take these forward locally.

Officers will be available at Committee to answer any questions Members may have.

4. Risk Management

4.1 Risk management is addressed in the attached Cabinet report at appendix 1.

5. Financial and legal implications

5.1 The financial and legal implications are within the attached Cabinet reports at appendix 1 and 2.

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Committee are asked to consider the call-in request and decide whether to accept the Cabinet decisions outlined in paragraph 2 of this report and that no further action is taken, or recommend an alternative to Cabinet.

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Background papers

Cabinet reports – as attached at appendices