

SCRUTINY CALL-IN REQUEST FORM

SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES (14-15)

(Must be completed by at least 2 Members)

All parts of this form must be completed.

1. DECISION

Title - EVENTS AND CULTURE IN THE CITY – CHRISTMAS 2023 AND BEYOND

Minute No - 81

Date Taken - Monday 20th February 2023

Decision Maker – The City Council Labour Executive

1. REASON FOR CALL – IN

Please identify the ground(s) and reason(s) on which you believe the decision should be Called In.

The list below may assist you to identify the areas where you believe there are defects in the decision making process.

- **That having regard to the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it was made, the decision has been taken on the basis of inappropriate or insufficient consultation**
- **That the decision maker has failed to give adequate reasons for the decision**
- **That the decision maker has failed to take relevant considerations, or has taken irrelevant considerations into account, or has come to a decision which no reasonable decision maker, taking everything properly into account, could have come to**
- **That the decision is contrary to policy framework**
- **That the decision is contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget**
- **That the decision cannot be justified and is open to challenge on the basis of the evidence considered.**
- **That a viable alternative was not considered.**

ii) Re-allocate the existing budget provision for the Christmas Market to provide a wider events programme throughout the year, including a new “Christmas in Lincoln” offer

<p><u>The Ground(s) for Call-In is:</u></p>	<p><u>The reason supporting the ground(s) is:</u></p>
<p>That having regard to the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it was made, the decision has been taken on the basis of inappropriate or insufficient consultation.</p>	<p>The process in which the decision has been made (to re-allocate the existing budget provision for the Christmas Market to provide a wider events programme throughout the year, including a new “Christmas in Lincoln” offer) by the Labour Executive has, even by Cllr Metcalfe’s own admission, been made without sufficient public discussion (I refer to Cllr Metcalfe’s monologue during the Executive meeting of 20th February).</p> <p>Opposition Councillors, and from what we understand, backbench members of the controlling group, were only notified of the plans to re-allocate the Christmas Market budget the day before the public announcement.</p> <p>The decision has been met both by residents (who this council proports to represent) and businesses with shock at the lack of public engagement regarding this decision.</p> <p>Despite a significant number of individuals signing the petition. The petition organiser was not offered the opportunity to address the Labour Executive – Cllr Metcalfe has previously allowed public speakers at the Executive. We recall this last being done at the Executive meeting where the decision was made to cut the council grant issued to the Drill Hall.</p>
<p>That the decision maker has failed to give adequate reasons for the decision</p>	<p>Whilst time was taken to explain why the council believes that the reallocation of funds is necessary, based on the events of the 2022</p>

	<p>Christmas Market, we believe that an adequate discussion of the alternative options have not properly been discussed and considered.</p> <p>This is with particular reference to the proposed options as provided by the Safety Advisory Group (see below for reference) -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>explore utilisation of a much wider area, and/or</i> - <i>reduce the number of people attending (ticket event), and/or</i> - <i>operate over a longer period (which includes two Saturdays)</i> <p>Whilst limited anecdotal discussion has taken place in order to dismiss the 3 recommendations as unviable. No detailed data has been provided and no public consultation has been carried out regarding these 3 recommendations from the Safety Advisory Group.</p>
<p>That a viable alternative was not considered.</p>	<p>The decision (Re-allocate the existing budget provision for the Christmas Market to provide a wider events programme throughout the year, including a new “Christmas in Lincoln” offer) has not been taken with due regard to the possible alternative options. The City Council has essentially washed its hands of Lincoln’s Christmas offering and is now hoping that stakeholders pick up after the mess that has been made.</p>

SUGGESTING AN OUTCOME What recommendation to the Executive do you want to make?

- The City of Lincoln Council issue a full public apology for its poor engagement with local stakeholders, businesses and residents.
- The City of Lincoln Council review its decision making process, ensuring that decisions cannot be made in future unless engagement standards have been met.

- The City of Lincoln Council pause the decision to re-allocate funds away from the Christmas Market whilst it carries out a full public consultation and comprehensively consider alternative arrangements for the 2023 Christmas Market.
- Should the City Council formally make the decision to re-allocate funds to a wider events programme, this budget is fully protected from cuts for 5 financial years, commencing from 2024 (which is when an events programme is expected to commence).

CALL-IN SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS (this should be at least 2 members)

Name - Councillor Thomas Dyer, Leader of the Opposition
Signature –

Name – Councillor Rachel Storer, Conservative Councillor
Signature –

Date 24th Feb 2023