

**COMMITTEE:** REGENERATION & CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY

**DATE:** 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2006

**SUBJECT:** CALLED IN DECISION - PROPOSALS FOR THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

**REPORT BY:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF LOCAL  
DEMOCRACY)

**CONTACT OFFICER:** WENDY JOHNSON 547149

**IMPLICATIONS:**

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

---

**PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to consider the Called In decision of the Executive in relation to Proposals for the Community Development Service (Executive Decision Number: EX/185/06).

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. **Regeneration & Citizenship Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the Called In Decision of the Executive (EX/185/06) in relation to the Proposals for the Community Development Service.**

## **BACKGROUND**

3. At its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006, the Executive considered a report of the Head of Leisure & Community which is attached as an Appendix to this report.
4. A petition containing 669 signatures was handed in at the meeting of the Executive. The text of the petition was as follows:

“As you will see from the numbers of signatures, users of Raynham Way community Centre are extremely upset at the withdrawal of facilities which cannot be replaced elsewhere.

For example: Sunday morning closure means that for a lot of people who played bowls for a couple of hours (many of whom are lonely widows/ widowers) were able to at least get out and socialise, have lost this lifeline. Also the football matches played without the building being open means that changing or toilet facilities for players and spectators are no longer available.

One could go on to list the other facilities which have been withdrawn (no more cubs/scouts etc.) all of which are too depressing to think about.

We urge the Council to re-think about making these budget cuts and restore the facilities we have lost.

The community and users of Raynham Way Community Centre are asking the council to re-consider their decision to cut Community Development's budget. Raynham Way Community Centre is a lifeline to a huge number of people from birth to death. The closures already implemented have affected many people and the plan to cut even more services will have a devastating effect on the hundreds of people who rely on this centre.”

## **REPORT**

5. The Executive decided as follows:
  - (i) That the petition handed in at the meeting be received.
  - (ii) That the summary of the formal consultation on proposals for the Community Development Service as tabled at the meeting be noted.

- (iii) That changes to the Community Development service be approved to meet the necessary budgetary requirements, for implementation by 1 October 2006, as outlined in paragraphs 6 to 9 of the report of the Head of Leisure and Community (Ref: 9) and in particular by:
- focusing resources on “Units” of one or more Community Centres;
  - reducing the availability of neighbourhood and area based community development support in the short term;
  - developing capacity amongst Community Centre users to support the management and operation of Centres; and thus
  - developing an increased capacity for broader community development support in the medium to longer term;
- (iv) That officers be requested to produce a report for Administration Committee setting out the resultant necessary changes to the staffing structure.
- (v) That a report be received by the Executive reviewing the service changes within twelve months.
6. The decision is subject to the Call In Process. The deadline for Call In is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006.
7. In accordance with Standing Order 55.2, the decision has been ‘Called-In’ by two Members of the Council, Councillors Shaw and Harris.
8. The recommended process for dealing with “called-in” decisions is for the Committee to request the reasons why the two Councillors “called-in” the decisions and then to determine whether or not the decisions should be scrutinised.
9. If the decision(s) are to be scrutinised, the Committee must proceed to do so at this meeting unless the Executive agree otherwise.
10. The relevant officers will be in attendance at the meeting.

### **PROPOSAL/OPTION**

11. The options available to the Committee are:-
- (a) To advise the Executive that they have no objection to the called in decision being implemented.
  - (b) To advise the Executive that the Committee is of the view that the decisions should be reconsidered and of any alternative recommendations;
- or
- (c) To refer the decisions to the Council for debate.

### **APPENDIX**

12. Appendix– Report of the Head of Leisure & Community.

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS** **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

13. Executive Report Ref: EX/6/06/9