

**NOTE OF A CALL-IN MEETING
HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER, 2018 AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
TO DISCUSS THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION
IN RESPECT OF THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND**

PRESENT:

Councillors

M. Iqbal	Caller-In
B. Newman	
K. Turner	
D. M. Whipp	Caller-In

In Attendance:

Dean Langton	Chief Executive
Philip Mousdale	Corporate Director
Joanne Eccles	Committee Administrator

Chairman

Councillor C. Wakeford

1. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

DECISION CALLED IN

At its meeting on 27th November, 2018 the Policy and Resources Committee took the decision shown in the minute below which resulted in a Call In Notice being submitted by Councillors M. Iqbal, D. M. Whipp and N. Younis.

“The Chief Financial Officer submitted a report on the governance arrangements and policy document for the Community Investment Fund. A total of £100,000 had been set aside from the 2017/18 revenue budget underspend to provide Councillors with the opportunity to access finance to fund asset improvement projects within their ward.

It was suggested that the politically balanced sub-committee of the Policy and Resources Committee be set up to determine the governance arrangements and the final policy document.

An alternative suggestion of allocating this funding to the five Area Committees to support initiatives within their areas was also put forward but not supported.

RESOLVED

That a sub-committee of the Policy and Resources Committee be convened to determine the governance arrangements and policy document of the Community Investment Fund based on a membership of 3 Councillors.

REASON

To progress finalising the arrangements for the Community Investment Fund.”

REASON FOR CALL IN

The reason given for the call in was that the proposal for a sub-committee of only 3 members does not take into account the political representation on the Council. Nor does it take into account the geographical coverage of Pendle. The allocation of this money is on a Pendle wide basis, therefore the money should be given to Area Committees to discuss/decide on bids in their areas.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION

It was suggested that the money be allocated directly to Area Committees to allow local councillors to make the decision on where best to allocate. Or bring all bids to Policy and Resource Committee for decisions.

DISCUSSION

The reasons for the call-in were discussed. The main concern related to the setting up of a politically balanced Policy and Resources sub-committee based on a membership of only 3 Councillors to manage the £100,000 Fund. This would mean that the Liberal Democrat group would not have a seat on the sub-committee and called into question the fairness of this decision. It was an important tradition in Pendle that all voices were heard when important decisions were made. This very small number of Councillors would be making funding decisions for the whole of Pendle. There were also concerns that the terms of reference and governance were being left to the sub-committee to determine.

It was suggested that a fairer way would be to distribute it to area committees. This element of revenue funding would also give them more flexibility, now that they were restricted to capital funding. Area committees had the opportunity to match-fund. They were also an open forum with established practices for considering and awarding grants.

AGREED

Following the discussion it was agreed that the Policy and Resources Committee be asked to reconsider the approach to the allocation of the Community Investment Fund.