



NOTIFICATION OF DECISION FOR URGENT IMPLEMENTATION

Decision either included or not included on the current Forward Plan but needs to be implemented immediately by virtue of the urgency of the actions that need to be undertaken. This decision will not be subject to call-in.

ORIGINATOR'S DETAILS

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DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Electoral Review – Council Size

Decision to be taken by the Leader of the Council

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is reviewing Southwark's size and electoral boundaries. The Council has been asked to make a submission to the Commission by 15 July 2015.

Cabinet on 17 March 2015 set up a cross party working group to make recommendations to the Leader on council size. Cabinet also agreed that the findings of the working group would be brought to Council Assembly ahead of the Leader making a decision.

Why has this decision been delayed until now?

The first Council Assembly meeting that can consider the report is 8 July. In order to take account of Council Assembly's views, the Leader will need to take the decision after 8 July but ahead of the submission deadline of 15 July. This means urgent implementation is necessary.

Why can't the decision be reasonably deferred?

If the decision were called in, it would mean that the council could not make a submission to the Commission as it would miss the 15 July deadline.

How long has the department known the decision was to be taken?

We have known the date since February, the decision making process was agreed at March cabinet.

If scheduled on the forward plan for a particular period, what's changed to make it so urgent now?

Nothing has changed. In order to be considered by Council Assembly ahead of an IDM, and Urgent Implementation was always going to be necessary.

Why is it important that this decision is taken now?

The council needs to make representations to the commission to help them determine the future size of the council. Without our submission, they will not have full access to the information about how many members are necessary to effectively run the council which could have an impact on the council in the future.

What is the potential cost to the council if the decision is delayed?

If the decision is delayed, the Council cannot submit to the Commission. There is no direct cost to this, but the council loses the opportunity to influence its future size which could have cost implications.

Date decision to be taken on: 10 July 2015

Declaration

I agree with the Chief Officer/Head of Service that the proposed Decision is reasonable and that it can be treated as a matter of urgency.

Signed *Gavin Edwards* Dated 26/6/2015

Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Please note reasons for refusal, additional points or further action required (as appropriate)

Please return completed form to Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, PO Box 64529, London, SE1P 5LX – Tel: 020 7525 7225; Email: ian.millichap@southwark.gov.uk