

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

CALL-IN OF DECISION

We 5 non-executive Members of the Council wish to call-in the following decision:

Reference No: 2022/09/29 – no 36 Ceasing the supply of single use plastic caddy liners

Subject: Supply of free food caddy liners

The decision was made by the Lib Dem/labour coalition executive to cease the provision of free food caddy liners in 2023/24 on 29th September

1.4.2 Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:

- a) proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- b) due consultation and the taking of professional advice from Officers;
- c) human rights will be respected and considered at an early stage in the decision making process;
- d) a presumption in favour of openness;
- e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes and
- f) when decisions are taken by the Executive, details of the options which were taken into account and the reasons for the decision will be recorded.

Reason for Call-in:

1. The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 b) and d) of the Council's constitution, insofar as the decision:
 - a) Is not proportional to the desired outcome in that the saving attributed to the targeted increase in food waste recycling of £350k would not be achieved by the removal of free caddy liners, as confirmed by Cllr Clive Jones, the Lib Dem Leader of the Council in the Reading Chronicle on the 22nd September 2022, when he said that whilst the volume of recycling could dip slightly it will come back because people want to recycle. This is not aligned to the desired outcome of increased food recycling.
 - b) Due consultation has not occurred, the decision sheet on 29th September confirms that no alternatives were considered and no public consultation has taken place in breach of 1.4.2 b). In addition, before the decision was tabled at executive the Leader of the council stated in the Reading Chronicle of the 22nd September "It will be debated at the council meeting on Thursday but this is just to ratify it and the decision has been taken". This is a clear case of predetermination where the Leader confirms that a decision has been taken not only before consultation but also before the meeting at which the decision was due. This is a breach of 1.4.2 d)

2. The decision has also breached rule 5.4.8 which says that a copy of the forward programme will be provided to all members each month AND published on the Council's website. The item in question was a key decision in that it affects all residents of the borough and a significant risk to revenue and was not on a forward programme provided to members as required by the constitution.

Name (please print)	Signature
<i>Greg Murray</i>	SIGNED
LAURA BLUMENTHAL	SIGNED
PARRY BATH	SIGNED
<i>Pauline Jorgensen</i>	SIGNED
NORMAN JORGENSEN	SIGNED

3rd October 2022

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Date