

Call-In a Decision Form

TITLE OF REPORT	Complying with the Biodiversity Duty – Our Policies and Objectives for Thriving Wildlife in Oldham
DATE DECISION MADE:	24 March 2025
DECISION MADE BY: (Cabinet/officer)	cabinet
REFERENCE NO. (If appropriate)	

The following signatories request that the above decision be called in:

	Name	Signature
1*	Mark Kenyon	By email
2*	Sam Al-Hamdani	By email
3		
4		
5		

**Two signatories minimum.*

To be filled out by lead signatory:

Why is the decision being called in? (Continue on another page if necessary)¹

There was not enough information in the report to make the decision. The cabinet minutes make reference to some of these deficiencies: “resources such as funding may be needed to be identified for management plans”. However, there are further gaps in this report which need to be filled and the report resubmitted to cabinet for approval. These gaps include;

The plan does not make any assessment of existing capacity (eg authority maintained public rights of way and that existing contribution to green corridors) and new capacity required.

The plan does not attach a budget nor any identified sources of funding. In the absence of funding, it does not offer a paired down and prioritised list of objectives that can be fulfilled with existing capacity. This is particularly relevant considering the continued strain on local authority finances.

¹ The grounds on which an executive decision can be called-in are:

1. The decision falls outside the Council’s agreed Budget or Policy Framework. 2
2. There was not enough information on which to make a decision
3. An alternative policy option or options were not sufficiently explored.
4. The reason(s) for rejection of alternative policy options were not sufficiently explained.
5. Other Committee/Sub-Committees or any other Council body which have a legitimate role to comment were not given the opportunity to do so
6. The decision should have been included in the key decision notice.

The plan is full of objectives but is short on how achievement will be measured and by whom. If measurement is needed by specialists, then how will that be funded?

There are no milestones or touchpoints to measure progress towards these important objectives eg the tree canopy objective ends in 2040. How and when will the authority measure progress towards this objective?

Measurement is discussed on p32, para 7.4 “Indicators on biodiversity are also included in our monitoring report¹⁵ related to the implementation of the local plan.” which in footnote 15 references a monitoring report [Monitoring and Housing Land | Oldham's Monitoring Report | Oldham Council](#). The latest iteration of this report is for 2023-24 and is already one year out of date.

For office use only:

Received by (name of constitution services officer):

Date:

Time:

To be filled out by the Chair of the O&S Board:

Which Officers/Cabinet Members do you wish to attend the Overview & Scrutiny Board meeting to answer the call-in and why?

Date Call In to be heard:

For office use only:

Signature of O&S Board Chair:

Date:

Time: