

# Call-In Request Form



## FAO Monitoring Officer

I would like to call in the decision as detailed below:

Decision Making Body or Individual	Babergh Cabinet
Decision Made	BCa/23/48
Date Decision Made	8 April 2024

These are the grounds for calling a decision in:

### 1. The Decision was not taken in accordance with the principles of good decision making (please tick which principle has been breached)

(a)	The Decision does not comply with the Council's Constitution	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b)	The Decision was not reasonable within the common meaning of the word, i.e. rational, based on sound judgement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	The decision was not reasonable within the legal definition of "reasonableness", i.e. was everything irrelevant disregarded	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d)	The Decision was not proportionate, i.e. the action was not proportionate to the desired outcome	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e)	The decision was not taken on the basis of due consultation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(f)	The Decision was not taken on the basis of professional advice from officers	<input type="checkbox"/>
(g)	Human Rights were not respected and/or the decision will give rise to Human Rights Implications	<input type="checkbox"/>
(h)	When the decision was taken, there was no presumption in favour of openness	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please give further details as to why you believe the ticked principle(s) have been breached:

This decision has been made by a small number of Councillors on narrow financial grounds, without due regard to or reasonable accommodation of the significant level of public contention it has provoked: well-founded objections regarding the impact on local economies and on vulnerable individuals have merely been brushed aside. The Council's own 'engagement exercise' form of consultation revealed a majority of respondents opposed to the proposals, but Cabinet has gone ahead and approved the original proposals nonetheless.

There is serious political disagreement on the issue: some Green, Independent, and Lib Dem Councillors support it, but a majority of Greens, some Independents and Lib Dems, and all Labour and Conservative Councillors oppose it. If the matter were to be voted on by Full Council, it would probably be defeated. For these reasons, the decision is not reasonable (not based on sound judgement) and it ignores crucial relevant evidence (not taken on the basis of the consultation carried out).

**2. The Decision may be contrary to the Council's agreed policy framework (please state which policy has been breached)**

N/A

**3. The Decision may be contrary to the Council's agreed budgetary framework (please state which area of the budget has been breached)**

N/A

**Reasons for the Call-In are:**

This decision ignores the substantial weight of evidence gathered by the Council's own 'engagement exercise' and by the petition organised by Cllr Clover (validated and noted by Full Council on 20 February 2024). Several letters of objection have been submitted by town and parish councils and individual councillors, and BDC Councillors in Hadleigh and Sudbury carried out opinion surveys on the matter which revealed a substantial majority of car park users and businesses opposed to the proposals. The O&S committee recommended that Cabinet consider its decision in the light of concerns raised at its meeting of 18 March 2024. But the proposals submitted to Cabinet on 08 April 2024 were almost entirely as originally conceived, showing no substantive change in response to representations by Councillors (both district and town/parish) or by the O&S Committee itself.

We therefore believe that the O&S Committee should meet to consider whether principles of good decision-making have been breached in this instance.

What action would you like to see the decision makers take to address the concerns outlined in the call-in, or how should the original decision be varied?

The original decision ignores the O&S committee's request "That Officers be requested to set out in the report to Cabinet a proposed range of tariffs that include a free parking period of 1 hour and its associated costs" (O&S minutes of 18 March 2024, p6). No such range of tariffs was presented in the report and that option was not adopted by the Cabinet. Nor have any alternative measures to raise extra revenue been tabled by anyone.

We wish the option of 1 hour free in all BDC-controlled car parks to be fully and properly reconsidered in the light of all available evidence. We therefore wish Cabinet to instruct officers to research and present for discussion a wide range of alternative revenue-raising measures beyond varying car parking fees, so that Cabinet can take a balanced and informed decision rather than declare that "we must do this", as was stated during the 08 April Cabinet meeting.

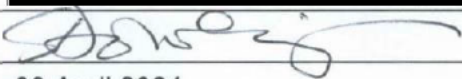
Valid Requests will be considered at a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

What documents (if any) are required and what witnesses (if any) will be necessary to consider the Call-In?

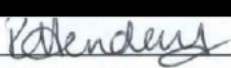
Report BCa/23/43 (Car Parking Charges and Road Traffic Orders)  
 Key Decision Notice (CAB474)  
 Cabinet Meeting Minutes 08 April 2024

Cllr John Ward – Acting Leader and Relevant Portfolio Holder  
 Mark Emms – Director of Operations and Climate Change

Please enter details of the lead signatory below:

Name (Print)	Cllr Simon Dowling
Daytime telephone number	[REDACTED]
Evening telephone number	same
Email address	Simon.Dowling@babbergh.gov.uk
Address	[REDACTED]
Signature	
Date of request	08 April 2024

I confirm I have the support of four other Councillors as follows:

Name (Print)	Cllr Ruth Hendry
Daytime telephone number	[REDACTED]
Evening telephone number	"
Email address	ruth.hendry@babbergh.gov.uk
Address	[REDACTED]
Signature	
Date of request	8.4.24

Name (Print)
Daytime telephone number
Evening telephone number
Email address
Address
Signature
Date of request

ALISON OWEN
[REDACTED]
''
alison.owen@babesgh.gov.uk
[REDACTED]
Alison
8.4.24

Name (Print)
Daytime telephone number
Evening telephone number
Email address
Address
Signature
Date of request

KATHRYN GRANDON
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Kathryn.Grandon@babesgh.gov.uk
[REDACTED]
K. Grandon
8.4.24

Name (Print)
Daytime telephone number
Evening telephone number
Email address
Address
Signature
Date of request

Cllr Tim Reester
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
tim.reester@babesgh.gov.uk
[REDACTED]
Tim Reester
8/4/2024

**Seen by the Monitoring Officer:**

Janice Robinson
-----------------

Signed

[Signature]
-------------

**Chair of Scrutiny:**

Cllr Mary McLaren
-------------------

Signed

[Signature]
-------------