

In line with the procedures outlined in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules section 17 of the County Council Constitution we have been asked by fellow councillors to call-in the decisions made by the Executive on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 in respect of the future of the DLI Museum.

The reasons for this are detailed on the attached appendix and relate directly to the Constitution, taking due regard to principles of decision making and consultation.

We believe the basis for this decision is flawed for the following reasons:

1. The Provision of Advice and Information to Members, Part 5.7 of the Constitution states that it is important for Services to keep Members informed about major issues and events in their Division. The Local Member Consultative Charter goes on to state that any matter of significance or sensitivity which relates to a particular Electoral Division or Divisions will be discussed with the Local Member(s) concerned before being submitted for consideration, and critically that this is "to provide the opportunity for early awareness and to allow a local perspective to be obtained."  
This has clearly not happened on this occasion as the only discussion with members took place on the day/day before the Cabinet papers were published and was for information only, rendering any opportunity for local perspective to be considered or included as part of the report redundant.
2. The lead group were told of the decision in advance of the Cabinet papers being released however councillors from other groups were not briefed including those in the Durham City area, which is against the council's policy of non-discrimination.
3. There has been a lack of consultation with the general public and those members of the public who are not Trust members but who have a personal interest in the DLI museum in respect of the closure decision.
4. There has been no consideration of advertising for the facility to be transferred to a volunteer/community organisation as has happened with other facilities such as leisure centres and community centres.

In light of these issues we feel that this decision is flawed and should therefore be reviewed.

The call-in was signed by five individual Members:-

Councillor Owen Temple

Councillor Richard Ormerod

Councillor Audrey Willis

Councillor Amanda Hopgood

Councillor Richard Bell