

Call-in Request

We, the under-signed, hereby request that the Scrutiny Committee review the Decision made by the Cabinet on Friday 4th October 2013 that the Council should let a significant part of Abbey House and relocate a significant number of district council staff to Crowmarsh, as we believe the decision did not fully follow the following key 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) clarity of aims and desired outcomes*
- (d) an explanation of the options that were considered before a decision was taken, and the reasons for that decision*
- (e) the social, economic and environmental well-being of the community .*

We are concerned that the relocation of a significant number of staff to Crowmarsh could have a serious and significant impact the ability of members of the public and councillors to engage with officers (we note that the Chief Executive has subsequently indicated that up to 150 of the Council's staff might be relocated).

We note that the report that was considered by Cabinet contained :

- a) little detail about which/how many officers might be re-located;
- b) little consideration of how these proposals might impact on the Council's ability to serve the public;
- c) very limited financial analysis of the potential income/expenditure;
- d) little analysis of other options;
- e) no evidence that due consultation had been carried out with key stakeholders (staff, councillors, and the Public).

Cllr Jim Halliday, Cllr Richard Webber, Cllr Tony de Vere, Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer, Cllr Debby Hallett