

## **CABINET – 23 FEBRUARY 2016**

### **Note of the Meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee held on 4 February 2016**

1. At their meeting on 4 February the Performance Scrutiny Committee considered the decision of the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Hudspeth substituting) made on 14 January 2016 following proper notice of a call in.
2. The Committee **AGREED** to refer the decision back to Cabinet on the grounds of material concerns in that the officers dealing with the matter had not been made aware of the fact that a 1500+ signature petition had been presented to Council opposing the proposal.

#### **Summary of the Material Concerns**

3. During discussion Members heard that the petition had been taken into account in consideration of the County Council's response to the planning application determined by South Oxfordshire District Council. In response to questions, officers confirmed that it had not been specifically referred to in that response.
4. Concern was expressed that the existence of the petition, and that it had been taken into account during the planning process had not been communicated during the decision making process for the Cabinet Member decision on 14 January 2016. It was felt that when including background in a report then all background should be included. Members felt that it should be referred back to cabinet so that the decision could be considered in the light of all the facts including the petition.
5. Members in noting that the petition had been submitted to full Council raised concerns that local members had not been advised of the petition and kept informed of the response. They considered that something extra was needed with regard to a protocol on Member engagement and will raise this separately with the Audit & Governance Committee.