



North Tyneside Council

**REQUEST TO CALL-IN
AN EXECUTIVE DECISION**

SUBJECT: Monkseaton High School

DATE OF DECISION: 6/11/24

REASONS FOR REQUESTING CALL-IN:

We believe that the decision to begin the statutory process to close Monkseaton High School constitutes a significant change to the Council's budget and policy framework, particularly impacting the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Given the substantial financial and social implications of this decision, we strongly contend that it should be taken by a meeting of the full council, rather than as an officer-delegated decision. This will ensure that there is full democratic accountability and transparency in considering such a major decision.

Financial and Policy Implications:

The closure of Monkseaton High School could significantly alter the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, with potential consequences for projected allocations toward educational provisions in North Tyneside. Costs associated with redundancies, reallocation of students, and additional support required for neighbouring schools are likely to arise. This is not to mention the projected school deficit is expected to grow in the time between now and closure, given the significant financial consequences it is right this decision go through the call in process.

Democratic Accountability:

Given the wide-ranging impact on students, families, and the local community, we believe a decision of this magnitude warrants the scrutiny and input of elected councillors in a full council meeting. By allowing all representatives the opportunity to engage with this decision, we can better uphold our commitment to democratic accountability and community-centered governance.

Insufficient Consultation Process:

We further believe that the decision does not align with the principles of decision-making, particularly regarding adequate consultation. The consultation period was exceptionally short and scheduled at the beginning of the academic year, a period when many parents are managing significant demands. This limited timeframe may have constrained meaningful community engagement, potentially resulting in an underrepresentation of stakeholder views, including those of parents, students, and school staff.

Procedural and Legal Considerations:

Under the Council's constitution, all major decisions should adhere to principles of transparency, accountability, and thorough consultation, especially when fundamental services such as education are at stake. The decision to close Monkseaton High School appears not to meet these principles, raising concerns about the procedural integrity of this process.

In light of these financial, democratic, and procedural concerns, we respectfully urge that this decision be called in, and a meeting of overview and scrutiny decide whether to refer the decision to full council. Such an approach will ensure that it aligns with the financial and democratic responsibilities of the Council, providing a transparent and accountable process that reflects the views and best interests of our community.

Signatures – this form must be signed by 3 non-executive Members of the Council

Signature

Print Name Here



Cllr Liam Bones



Cllr John Johnsson



Cllr Ian McAlpine

Received by:

Date:

Reference Number:

Once completed this form must be presented to the Head of Law within 5 working days of the date of the decision notice

