



TO: THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 For the immediate attention of
 Democraticservices@blackburn.gov.uk

From COUNCILLOR MARK RUSSELL

Date: 05/03/2025

EXECUTIVE BOARD/MEMBER DECISION TO BE CALLED IN: Ref	
EXECUTIVE BOARD/EMD	DATE OF PUBLICATION: 28/02/2025
Subject: Service Charge Review – Blackburn Market	

EXECUTIVE BOARD/MEMBER DECISION CALLED IN BY:
 (6 Members)

Councillor	Signature
1. Mark Russell	
2. Paul Marrow	
3. Kevin Connor	
John Slater	
Julie Slater	
6. Derek Hardman	
Date Received by Democratic Services:	

REASONS FOR THE CALL IN

1. *The Decision states "Costs have increased year on year" - this is not supported by the Council's annual Budgets for the Market - budgeted costs decreased significantly from 23/24 to 24/25.*
2. *The 'Financial Implications' section is wrong. It gives an incorrect service charge increase and an incorrect amount of additional income raised.*
3. *The 'Financial Implications' section fails to mention that the proposed Service Charge increase is contrary to what Labour approved at Finance Council only days before this Decision was published*

4. *"A future full review will be required to be undertaken working with Finance Team and Property Team colleagues to fully understand what is included in the service charge." The Council should not be increasing Service Charges before it understands what is included in the Service Charge - the review should happen first.*
5. *The 'Options Considered and Rejected' section fails to mention that the Council intended to increase the Service Charge by 15%*
6. *The Decision lists only Cllr Jim Smith as a consultee. This Decision should not be made without consulting Market Traders and specifying the outcome of that consultation. Their opinion is more important than Jim Smith's.*
7. *Increasing Service Charges will only further deter traders from taking up stalls on Blackburn Market. The Council would be better off reducing Service Charges in order to generate additional income by attracting more Traders onto the Market.*
8. *The Decision was published too late to take effect from 1st March. The Decision to increase Service Charges can only take effect - at the earliest - from when the Decision is approved (either at Call-In Committee or following referral back to the Executive Member or at Full Council).*
9. *The Decision is dated 13th November but says authority to make it was only delegated in January 2025.*
10. *For all the above reasons, this is a shoddy Decision containing clear and obvious errors that should be reconsidered and rewritten.*