

SCRUTINY COMMISSION (SPECIAL MEETING)

TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission held on Tuesday, 24 June 2025. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording which will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Mrs J Twomey (Tel: 0116 305 2583).

ITEM 4

PROTOCOL FOR FLYING FLAGS AT COUNTY HALL - CALL-IN OF THE CABINET DECISION.

Chief Executive

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Cabinet be asked to reconsider its decision regarding the adoption of a new Protocol for Flying Flags at County Hall taken at its meeting held on 12 June 2025 having specific regard to:
 - (i) Resolution 4(b)(iii), that “the fourth pole within the Quadrangle at County Hall be utilised to mark events such as Armed Forces Day, Commonwealth Day and Armistice Day”; and
 - (ii) Resolution 4(c), “that decision in relation to all other requests to fly flags in relation to community events and celebration days be delegated to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the County Council.”
- (b) That the Cabinet be requested to speak with representatives of each of the Council’s staff working groups, and to give due consideration to the comments received from the County Council as a Corporate Parent, from County Council social workers and from members of the public in advance of the Cabinet meeting at which the Protocol for Flying Flags at County Hall is to be reconsidered;
- (c) That the Cabinet consider whether the Union flag could also be flown on the fourth flagpole in the quadrangle (as well as outside the front of County Hall) when other specific flags were not being flown;

- (d) That a copy of the minutes summarising all the comments now made by the Scrutiny Commission be presented to the Cabinet for consideration in support of (a) and (b) above.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Resolution 4(b)(iii) is considered too vague and unclear and should instead specifically state which of the flags in the list of the previously agreed Flag Flying Protocol will be flown. This is necessary to ensure clarity and consistency.

Resolution 4(c) should be restricted to make clear that the delegation to the Chief Executive should only be exercised in response to exceptional national and/or international issues that arise from time to time.

To ensure that Staff Working Groups are properly consulted and their views taken into account in accordance with due process.