

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SPECIAL MEETING)**  
**20 January 2003**

Councillors \*Robertson (Chair), \*J. Brown (Vice Chair), \*Adamou, \*Davies, \*Dawson, \*Diakides, Dobbie, \*Lister, \*Makanji, Simpson and \*Williams.

\*Members present.

Also present: Mrs Shukla (Non-voting REJCC Representative)

Councillor Dodds, Hoban, Laird and Oatway also attended.

Officers present: C. McLean (Head of Local Democracy), J. Morris (Head of Recreation), P.Norton (Director of Environmental Services), J. Suddaby (Monitoring Officer)

**SC53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simpson and for late arrival from Mrs. Shukla.

**SC54 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS** No declarations were made.

**SC55 CALL-IN OF THE EXECUTIVE DECISION ON AWARDING A CONTRACT RELATED TO COMMERCIAL CONCERTS IN FINSBURY PARK**

Representatives of the Friends of Finsbury Park and the Woodstock Association attended the meeting and were invited to address the Committee on their concerns about use of the Park for commercial concerts. Their concerns included damage to the Park and its environment, nuisance (including health risks) to local residents and possible jeopardy to other sources of funding for improving the Park (e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund). Representatives questioned whether the loss of amenity outweighed the income generated and whether alternative approaches (e.g. smaller community events) would be more appropriate.

**SC56 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED –**

That the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following item as it contains exempt information relating to terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods and services.

**SC57 CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION ON AWARDING OF A CONTRACT RELATED TO COMMERCIAL CONCERTS IN FINSBURY PARK**

(The press and public were excluded during this item for the reasons stated in Minute SC56).

The Chair invited Councillor Hoban and other Members to report on the reasons for calling-in the decisions of the Executive (Min. TEX 181) regarding arrangements for awarding a contract for commercial concerts in Finsbury Park. They explained that the decisions were considered to be outside the policy framework and Access to Information rules and that Members of the Executive, in reaching their decision, did not have the benefit of background papers to the report, including a consultant's report.

The Executive Member, Environment reported that The Executive had found the report (together with separate non-exempt reports) to contain sufficient information and that the full consultant's report, whilst exempt, had nevertheless been fully accessible to any Member of the Executive wishing to have a copy. He also assured the Committee that the connected local

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community concerns had been aired and considered when the commercial contracts were discussed in the public part of the Executive meetings on 3 and 17 December 2002.

A report of the Monitoring Officer, which concluded that the decisions had not been taken outside the policy framework was also submitted.

Alongside considering the constitutional aspects of the Call-In, Members also acknowledged concerns raised by the local community and concurred that there was a need to ensure close monitoring in the future of how these events were run, the management of conditions and controls applying and the event organiser's adherence to them.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the Committee is satisfied that The Executive had appraised itself of all the circumstances in making its decisions (Minute TEX 181).
2. That no further action be taken on the Call-In in respect of Minute TEX181.
3. That arrangements for commercial concerts in Finsbury Park and implementation of controls and conditions be monitored generally by the Scrutiny Committee and specifically by the Environment Scrutiny Panel forthwith.
4. That the Licensing Sub-Committee be advised of the Committee's decisions.

**CLLR. IRENE ROBERTSON**  
Chair