

'CALL IN' OF DECISIONS OF THE CABINET

This form is to be used for the 'calling in' of decisions of the above bodies, in accordance with the procedure set out in Part 4 Section H.2 of the Constitution.

TITLE OF MEETING	Cabinet
DATE OF MEETING	18 th Nov 2008
MINUTE No. AND TITLE OF ITEM	CAB91 - HARINGEY'S PARKFORCE - OPEN SPACE SUPERVISION

1. Reason for Call-In/Is it claimed to be outside the policy or budget framework?

The proposals are considered to be inside the budget framework but outside the policy framework.

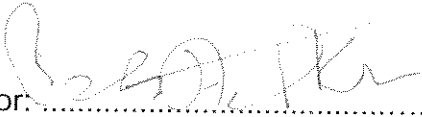
- Whilst supporting the general principles of the park-force scheme the overview and scrutiny committee should re-examine the specific proposal to abolish the Haringey Parks Constabulary.
- The disbandment of the Parks Constabulary would undermine the Council's ability to meet performance standards in the area of crime, community safety and antisocial behaviour.
- According to recent Metropolitan police figures there were 527 offences recorded in parks and open spaces in the borough between December 2006 and November 2007. The existence of the Parks Constabulary operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year allows the Council to deal with criminal behaviour in parks and open spaces, much of which occurs at night.
- The Metropolitan Police are often overstretched and frequently relay 999 calls about parks to the Parks Police for a response.
- Disbanding the Parks Constabulary is outside the policy framework of the Council. The Council would risk not meeting several best value performance indicators (BVPI) if this action went ahead. BVPIs on the level of crime, fear of crime, the feeling of public safety, robberies per thousand population, the number of class A drug supply offences, number of racial incidents per thousand population, as well as the green flag status of the borough's parks will all be jeopardised if the 10 Parks constables are lost.
- Regarding the consultation exercise carried out by the Parks service it seems that only 39 responses were received. In contrast a petition organised by opposition councillors, the MP for Hornsey and Wood Green and local neighbourhood watches has so far attracted support from over 1000 residents of the Borough.
- Figures on page 9 Para 13.1.4 of the report to Cabinet which indicate a reduction in the numbers of park users who feel unsafe in parts is due in substantial part to the work of the Parks Constabulary. Such

- progress could not be guaranteed to continue if they are disbanded.
- There are also figures quoted on page 11 Para 13.5.4 of the report which do not give a true picture of performance of incident responses and the fear of crime during the last three. Patrol hours and responses have reduced because the number of parks police have reduced from 20 to 10 and time spent processing prisoners at local police stations is not reflected in these statistics.
 - Similarly, there are claims in the report to Cabinet that safer neighbourhood teams (SNT) will fill the patrol capacity for parks and open spaces across the borough. This is misleading as SNT's are not 999 response teams, nor do they work night shifts other than due to special requirements, and they would not have the ability to secure the Parks or answer calls during the night about a disorder in the Parks.

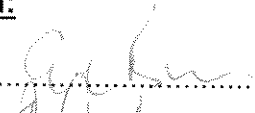
2. Variation of Action Proposed

- The overview and scrutiny committee is asked to re-examine the proposal to disband and to vary the actions of Cabinet by placing the Parks Constabulary with in the safer neighbourhoods management of the Council.
- To explore outside funding and the secondment of a sergeant or inspector from the Metropolitan police to provide liaison and management backup.
- Several other local authorities have adopted the park force model but have retained their Parks Constabulary - we believe Haringey should adopt this option at least until the new Parkforce model has been evaluated.


Signed:

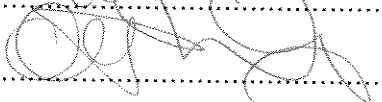
Councillor:  (Please print name): Row Pitken

Countersigned:

1. Councillor:  (Please print name): SARA BEYNON

2. Councillor:  (Please print name): JOHN LOAKES

3. Councillor:  (Please print name): RACHEL ALLISON

4. Councillor:  (Please print name): MONICA WHYTE

Date Submitted:

26/11/08

Date Received :

(to be completed by the Non Cabinet Committees Manager)

26 November 2008 @ 09.30hrs.

Notes:

1. Please send this form to:
Clifford Hart (on behalf of the Proper Officer)
Non Cabinet Committees Manager
7th Floor
River Park House
225 High Road, Wood Green, London N22 8HQ

Fax: 020 8489 2660
2. This form must be received by the Non Cabinet Committees Manager by 10.00 a.m. on the fifth working day following publication of the minutes.
3. The proper officer will forward all timely and proper call-in requests to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and notify the decision taker and the relevant Director.
4. A decision will be implemented after the expiry of ten working days following the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee's receipt of a call-in request, unless a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee takes place during the 10 day period.
5. If a call-in request claims that a decision is contrary to the policy or budget framework, the Proper Officer will forward the call-in requests to the Monitoring Officer and /or Chief Financial Officer for a report to be prepared for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advising whether the decision does fall outside the policy or budget framework.