

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2008**

Councillors      Councillors Bull (Chair), Adamou (Vice-Chair), Dodds, Egan and Winskill and Newton (substituting for Aitken)

Apologies      Councillor Alexander

Also Present:    Councillor Aitken (as lead signatory)  
                      Councillor Canver (as Cabinet Member)

**MINUTE  
NO.**

**SUBJECT/DECISION**

<b>OSCO130.</b>	<p><b>WEBCASTING</b></p> <p>The meeting was webcast on the Council's website.</p>
<b>OSCO131.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alexander.</p> <p>Councillor Newton substituted for Councillor Aitken, who as chief signatory presented the call-in.</p>
<b>OSCO132.</b>	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no such items.</p>
<b>OSCO133.</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>Councillor Canver declared an prejudicial interest in the call-in item, by nature of being involved in the initial decision taken. She thus withdrew upon the commencement of discussion of the action to be taken.</p>
<b>OSCO134.</b>	<p><b>CALL-IN OF DECISION OF THE CABINET OF 18TH NOVEMBER 2008 REGARDING CAB91 - HARINGEY'S PARKFORCE – OPEN SPACE SUPERVISION</b></p> <p>This special meeting of the committee had been called to discuss the Call-in of Cabinet decision CAB91, 'Haringey's Parkforce – Open Space Supervision'.</p> <p>A decision on the item had been taken at Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and had been called in, in accordance with the provisions set out in the Council's constitution, by Councillors Aitken, Beynon, Oakes, Allison and Whyte.</p> <p>The committee noted that the Monitoring Officer had ruled the call-in valid for the following reasons:</p>

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- (a) it was submitted and signed by 5 Councillors
- (b) it was received by the Head of Democratic Services by 10.00 a.m. on the fifth working day following publication of the draft minute on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 i.e. before 10 a.m. on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November.
- (c) it specified the decision to be called in
- (d) it specified whether the decision was claimed to be outside the policy/budget framework
- (e) it gave reasons for the Call-In and outlined an alternative course of action
- (f) the original decision has not been subject to the urgency procedures required in paragraph 18 of the Rules.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor Aitken, the lead signatory, on the reasons for the call-in. Although the signatories agreed with the general principles of the park-force scheme, they believed that the specific proposal to abolish the Parks Constabulary should be re-examined.

They were also of the opinion that the disbanding of the Parks Force lay outside the Council's Policy framework, believing that it would leave Haringey vulnerable to failing to meet several Best Value Performance Indicators. They also stated that the Force was popular locally, with widespread public support for its retention.

The Chair allowed Officials from the GMB Union to speak, who expressed concerns over the safety implications of disbanding what was regarded as a successful force, together with issues over consultation and the effects of the changes on staff.

The Cabinet Member for Enforcement & Safer Communities then addressed the committee and responded to the points made. She stated that she believed that the Parks Constabulary had been a success, and that their positive work could be built on under the new park-force scheme. It was noted that the implementation of the new model was dependent upon the deletion of the Parks Constabulary in order to release the necessary resources to increase the number and hours worked of staff in parks.

It was noted that consultation had taken place with the Friends of Parks group, who were in favour of the new model, with support for the redirection of resources.

The Committee received a representation from John Williams of the Metropolitan Police, who stated his belief that the parkforce model would improve policing and allow focus on 'hotspots'. The model would allow for smarter, more 'intelligence-based' policing. The committee learned that the implementation and managed transition would take place over the 3-4 months. It was stated that a longer lead-in time would have negative financial and staff morale implications.

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	<p>Following the withdrawal of the Cabinet Member, the committee discussed the proposals. Members were assured that oversight would take place through the Parkforce Subgroup, which would have a formal link to the Community Safety Partnership and be responsible for the co-ordination of all elements of the new model.</p> <p>Councillor Bull MOVED a motion that the decision be regarded as being inside the Council's policy and budget framework. Following a vote, the motion was CARRIED.</p> <p>Councillor Egan then MOVED a motion that no further action be taken in respect of the decision, thus allowing it to be implemented immediately. Following a vote, the motion was CARRIED.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That no further action be taken in respect of the decision of the Cabinet of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008, CAB91 – Haringey's Park Force – Open Space Supervision, and thus the decision be implemented immediately.</p>	
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COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL

Chair