

'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	The Cabinet
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DATE OF MEETING	28 th July 2008
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MINUTE No. AND TITLE OF ITEM	CAB47
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1. Reason for Call-In/Is it claimed to be outside the policy or budget framework?

The proposal is considered to be outside the budget/policy framework.

- The Council's current budget for 2008/09 to 2010/11, which was approved by Full Council in February 2008 did not include a project to spend £12million on a new Civic Centre. The 2003 Accommodation Strategy did not include a project to spend £12million on a different site for the Civic Centre.


Furthermore:

- The funding of a new Civic building should not be a priority given the multiple other demands for Council investment and pressures on Council services.
- Given the current turmoil in the property market and financial sector this is a bad time to be making investment decisions and incurring costs that are not vital, which ultimately depend on funding from the sale of a significant property asset (as per CAB48) into a terrible property market, and in the short term will add to the debt and therefore interest costs of the Borough.
- In the current unstable economic climate the proposed use of Council resources cannot be seen as providing residents with good value for money or a responsible use of public funds.
- A decision to continue to pursue this course of action could potentially prevent the funding of projects more important to residents and the Borough.
- The artificially forced timetable is preventing effective consultation and agreement with all the current users of the Woodside House site as to agreed alternative facilities.
- There has been no substantive resident or member consultation on the options for the provision of civic functions prior to this significant and long term investment decision being made.


2. Variation of Action Proposed


- No firm decisions should be currently taken on investment in a new Civic Centre until the source of funding for any needed investment is secured, all possible alternative approaches have been investigated and residents have been widely consulted on all the possible alternatives.
- Comprehensive resident consultation should be undertaken by the Council to cover the various alternative ways of meeting the Council need for space and also the potential alternative uses for the proceeds from any asset sale.
- Full consultation with current users of the Woodside House site should be undertaken before a decision is made to relocate the civic centre and civic functions.
- If any project is to be funded from the sale of a significant Civic asset then the timing of the sale needs to be examined carefully in order to maximise the value of the sale.
- Alternative approaches should be fully investigated and should include the possibility of having no fixed Council Chamber and using existing facilities in the Borough such as Alexandra Palace, Hornsey Town Hall, Tottenham Town Hall, Irish Centre, the new Heartlands School and other possible venues to hold Civic meetings and provide Civic services such as marriages.
- We would propose using the opportunity of needing to dispose of the existing Civic Centre to trial for a fixed period, say the four year term of the next Council, the approach of taking the Council out to the different parts of the Borough. Part of this solution could involve use of Woodside House or Hornsey Town Hall for the civic functions and making the changes necessary to enable public and disabled access to parts of River Park House or other Council buildings so existing meeting space could be used for committee meetings.

Signed:


Councillor:  (Please print name): MONICA WHYTE

Countersigned:

1. Councillor:  (Please print name): R.S.A. SORRIE

2. Councillor:  (Please print name): JOHN L. OAKES

3. Councillor:  (Please print name): RICHARD WILSON

4. Councillor:  (Please print name): ERROL REID

Date Submitted: 5th August 2008

Date Received : 5th August 2008 @ 10.00 a.m. 
(to be completed by the Non Cabinet Committees Manager)

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.