

'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	12/11/2019
MINUTE No. AND TITLE OF ITEM	75. SEND TRANSPORT INVEST TO SAVE BUSINESS CASE

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

It is not claimed that the decision is outside the policy or budget framework.

The decision externalises a change design and management function of the Council, in the SEND Transport service, to a private company. The company promises to achieve large savings in the cost of the SEND Transport service (while improving quality), out of which a minimum of £600,000 will be paid to the company itself.

The following are not made clear in the report:-

- How it will be ensured that the changes pushed through by this company are purely genuine efficiency savings and not cuts to the level or extent of services delivered, reductions in the numbers of children receiving a service, or adverse changes to the working patterns, staffing levels, conditions or workload of staff.
- Whether the company will have an operational / management role or merely an advisory role during their 2 year contract period.
- What would be the financial consequences should the Council reject all or part of the changes proposed by the company.
- What would be the financial consequences should the Council decide to terminate its contract with the company earlier than stipulated.

We are concerned that this decision:

- Represents a large transfer (£600,000+) of resources from the public to the private sector;
- May lead to changes which are not in accordance with our values;
- May not represent value for money compared with potential alternative ways forward;
- May lead to reputational damage to the Council and its present leadership, which will be blamed for any adverse effects of changes resulting from the involvement of this company.

2. Variation of Action Proposed


The decision to award this contract be rescinded. Instead, in house work to be undertaken, supported if an external resource is required by a non profit making and pro-public sector organisation such as APSE of which this council is a member, and in consultation with the trade unions and service users, to identify and progress genuine efficiency savings and service improvements. This to include consideration of bringing the supply of drivers and vehicles in house.

Signed:

Councillor:  (Please print name): NOAH TUCKER

Countersigned:

1. Councillor:  (Please print name): DANIEL STONE

2. Councillor:  (Please print name): MATT WHITE

3. Councillor:  (Please print name): PRESTON TABOIS

4. Councillor:  (Please print name): JAMES
CHIRITANKANDATH

Date Submitted:

Date Received :

(to be completed by the Democratic Services Manager)

Notes:

1. Please send this form to:

Ayshe Simsek (on behalf of the Proper Officer)
Acting Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
5th Floor
River Park House
225 High Road, Wood Green, London N22 8HQ
Tel: 8489 2920
Fax: 020 8881 5218

This form must be received by the Acting Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager by 10.00 a.m. on the fifth working day following publication of the minutes.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.