

CALL IN REQUEST – Option (a)

A Call In request may be made by:

Any five non-executive Members of council

Date of decision publication: 19 July 2013

Delegated decision ref:or

Executive Board Minute no: 30

Decision description: West Park Centre options appraisal and response to West Park Centre campaign group deputation to council

Discussion with Decision Maker:

Prior to submitting a Call In, a nominated signatory must first contact the relevant officer or Executive Member to discuss their concerns and their reasons for wanting to call in the decision. Part of this discussion must include the Member ascertaining the financial implications of requesting a Call In.

Please identify contact and provide detail.

Director/author of delegated decision report.

Executive Board Member

Detail of discussion (to include financial implications)

Cllr Jonathan Bentley discussed the issue over the telephone with Christine Addison (chief asset management officer and report author) on 25th July and explained his concerns around the issue, as detailed below. Christine confirmed that there were no specific financial implications to calling in the decision, nor would it affect the delivery timescale.

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Reasons for Call In:

All requests for Call In must detail why, in the opinion of the signatories, the decision was not taken in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 of the Council constitution (decision making) (principles of decision making) or where relevant issues do not appear to be taken into consideration. *Please tick the relevant box(es) and give an explanation.*

x	Proportionality (ie the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
	Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers
	Respect for human rights
	A presumption in favour of openness
x	Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
x	An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision
	Positive promotion of equal opportunities
x	Natural justice

Explanation

I have concerns that due consideration has not been given to each of the individual options put forward in the paper. Insufficient reason is given as to why option 1, for partial demolition of the West Park Centre with refurbishment and re-opening of the remainder, has not instead been advanced.

Although option 2 would generate the largest capital receipt for the council, it does not satisfy the concerns of user groups, or offer sufficient reassurance that suitable alternative accommodation will be provided for them. Given that other financial options are available to the council, it is disproportionate to demolish the entire building and displace user groups with no immediate alternative accommodation.

There is therefore also a lack of clarity as to the intended outcomes that will result, if the centre is demolished. Users of the centre have been unreasonably displaced since the site was temporarily closed without notice in November 2012. The report gives no firm commitment to provide an alternative community building and many groups, particularly those requiring specialist music and / or rehearsal provision have not been able to find alternative accommodation.

There has been fundamentally unfair treatment of these groups who have been left having to travel long distances and now face the prospect of having the 'home' for their organisations demolished without any assurances as to where they will be placed in future. The West Park Centre is the only dedicated music and cultural centre in Leeds, demolishing it would result in a great loss for our city.

Option 1 would provide user groups with certainty about that future, knowing that the centre will shortly be re-opened to accommodate their needs.

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support Unit

The following signatories request that the above decision be called in:

1) Signature..... *Jonathan Bentley*
Print name..... JONATHAN BENTLEY.

2) Signature..... *Judith M. Chapman*
Print name..... JUDITH M. CHAPMAN.

3) Signature..... *Sandy Lay*
Print name..... SANDY LAY.

4) Signature..... *M.H.H.*
Print name..... MARTIN HAMILTON.

5) Signature..... *Sue Bentley*
Print name..... SUE BENTLEY.

This form should be submitted to the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development (Scrutiny Support Unit, 1st Floor West, Civic Hall) by **5.00pm on the fifth working day after the decision publication date**. The office is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

(For further information on the Call In procedure please refer to the Scrutiny Support Unit intranet site, or contact the Unit on 39 51151).

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support Unit

For office use only: (box A)

Received on behalf of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development by:

.....(signature)

Date: 26.7.13 Time: 14:25 SSU ref: B.14.30.64

For office use only: (box B)

Exemption status checked:

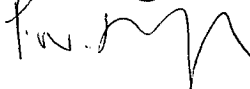
Date checked:

Signatures checked:

Receipts given:

Validity re article 13

Call In authorised: Yes / No

Signed: 

Date: 26.7.13

Receipt details: N/A