

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support Unit

CALL IN REQUEST – Option (a)

A Call In request may be made by:

Any five non-executive Members of council

Date of decision publication: 30/03/2011 (Executive Board)

Delegated decision ref: or

Executive Board Minute no: 205 or

Area Committee Name and decision ref:

Decision description: Garforth Squash + Leisure Centre
Executive Board Report

.....

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. Please identify contact and provide detail.

Director/author of delegated decision report.
 Executive Board Member

Detail

Call: Alan Lamb has spoken with Mark Allman, Head of Sport + Active Recreation, on the phone on 07/04/2011.

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.

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

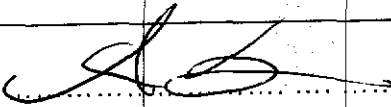
Explanation: None of the above have been properly explained and there are grave concerns about the proposal. The 2000+ name petition of local residents shows the level of local concern

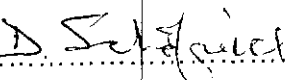
+ elected members also have concerns about the lack of a business plan, opportunities for other providers + concerns about the overall process particularly the level of detail in the Executive Board report.

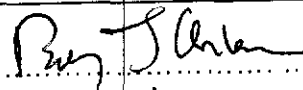
Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support Unit

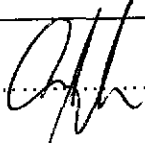
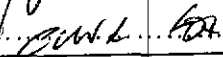
A Member cannot count as one of the two/five signatures if they are a member of the Scrutiny Board to which the Call In will be referred. In the case of decisions made by Area Committees, a Member cannot count as one of the two/five signatures if they are a member of that Area Committee.

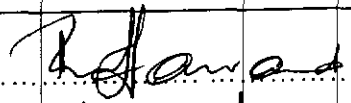
The following signatories request that the above decision be called in:

1) Signature... 
Print name... Alan Lamb

2) Signature... 
Print name... DAVID SCHOFIELD

3) Signature... 
Print name... Barry Anderson

4) Signature... 
Print name... 

5) Signature... 
Print name... Peter Harrand

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:

Richard A. Mills.....(signature)

Date: *07/04/11*..... Time: *2:50pm* SSU ref:

For office use only: (box B)

Exemption status checked:

Call In authorised: Yes / No

Date checked:

Signed: *Richard A. Mills*

Signatures checked:

Date: *07/04/11*

Receipts given:

Validity re article 13

Receipt details:*Email back*.....

A presumption in favour of openness

Elected members have concerns that the Schools Partnership Trust (SPT) is definitely going to take the Leisure Centre on. It is a loss making facility and there are grave doubts about what discussions have actually taken place with the Trust and the trustees who will actually determine SPT's willingness to take on the facility. There are no timelines or detail of the negotiation that has taken place.

The initial announcement on the community asset transfer came at the Full Council meeting on 23 February there has therefore been over a month to firm up the details of the proposals, yet the report does not contain agreed proposals.

The report to Executive Board did not contain a fully developed business plan and there are concerns that council officers have been given authority to reach an agreement without members having full access to all information. It seems that the approach to this has been simply to proceed on a good will basis without finalised heads of terms or detail on how the future service delivery at this facility will look.

There has been a 2000+ written petition submitted by concerned local residents there are concerns that the report that is being called in did not fully explain all matters relating to the community transfer and that as a result the signatories of the petition have not been fully informed and could be given false hope that the centre will not suffer reduced opening hours.

At 3.9 the report admits to being vague about the future of the facility; *'Without detail of the proposed uses a definitive assessment cannot be undertaken at this point in time of the improvements to promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the local area or people living or working there.'* Given this how can local residents make a judgement on the future service provision? Furthermore pronouncements in the media suggest that the centre has been saved, yet this report does not in fact give that undertaking.

Clarity of aims and desired outcomes

Given the rushed nature of the proposals the desired outcomes are unclear as at the present time there is no certainty as to what will happen to the Leisure Centre. In effect the report sets out an intention, or hope, that SPT will take on this facility, yet without details that is all the report represents.

Why are the proposals being brought forward now in such an incomplete state? Surely this will only confuse the desired outcomes - would service continuity be disrupted that much given that the public are already aware (through press statements) of additional Area Committee money that will ensure the centre can be kept open for approximately 58 hours per week in the short term?

An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision

There are concerns that only one organisation has been approached to take this facility on and there is no certainty that this organisation will in fact actually be willing to do it, this is despite interest from other organisations.

A similar process took place at the South Leeds Leisure Centre where a well intentioned effort to community transfer that facility ended up with it closing, does the same fate await this centre?

Discussion with the decision maker

Cllr Lamb spoke with Mark Allman, Head of Sport & Active Recreation, by telephone on 7 April 2011. Mr Allman was not able to provide satisfactory responses and as such Cllr Lamb remained dissatisfied for the reasons outlined above.