

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

REQUEST FOR CALL IN

This form is to be used when calling in a decision taken by the Cabinet, an individual Member of the Cabinet or a committee of the Cabinet, or a key decision made by an officer with delegated authority from the Cabinet, or under joint arrangements. An extract from the call in procedure is set out overleaf. The full procedure is set out in the Constitution.

DECISION TAKEN BY: Cabinet Member for Community, Regeneration and Equalities

DATE: 30 March 2012

(Please specify whether Cabinet or other)

ITEM TO BE CALLED IN: The Gospel Oak Community Partnership (CENV/2012/09)

Reasons for Call In

(The request must state whether or not you believe that the decision is outside the policy or budget framework)

We believe that the decision is outside the policy and budget framework of the Council for the following reasons:

- The decision to set up the Partnership was scheduled at a time that allowed for the least amount of public scrutiny or debate;
- The minutes of the meeting do not detail the content of the deputations nor was there a functioning webcast link to allow the electorate to hear what was said;
- The source of revenue for the funding of the Partnership, for which details of costs incurred so far were recently presented to the Gospel Oak DMC, have not been revealed to the Executive in any public report nor authorised by any vote;

- The setting up of the Partnership does not have the support of the community it seeks to represent;
- The Partnership is neither time nor budget limited and so presents the Council with an open-ended, financial commitment;
- The partnership has no measurable outcomes to which it should work and so provides no easy benchmark against which it may be judged a success or failure;
- The partnership is intended to be a legal, separate, entity apart from the Council, but neither the mechanisms of funding by the Authority nor the mechanisms by which it will be held accountable by elected members are detailed;
- The report does not identify what constitutes a 'group' from which nominated members are expected to come, nor what threshold of legitimacy they must reach;
- The Partnership is committed to reporting to local key organisations, yet the report does not say who these are nor does it detail the mechanisms through which the Partnership may be held to account;
- The Partnership report fails to detail how the selection process, through which the Partnership's

- members will be nominated by their organisations, will work or be scrutinised;
- The Partnership steering group were told that the proposed Partnership was a preliminary step towards setting up a formal and legally constituted entity that would bid for funding for regeneration, but this is not mentioned in the report;
 - The Partnership steering group were told that regeneration in Gospel Oak would not be possible without a formal and legally constituted Partnership and yet this is not mentioned in the report;
 - The executive member for regeneration made a personal commitment to the attendants of the Partnership steering group, prior to the report being published, that the response rate to the consultation, as a percentage, would be detailed in the report in a separate line. This has not been observed;
 - There is no evidence of any communication having taken place between the Council and local business people, prior to the formal consultation on setting up a Partnership;
 - The consultation prior to the report has excluded discernable sections of the local community, yet Gospel Oak DMC has been presented with costing, detailing expenses related to communicating with these particular sections, without any supporting evidence;
 - The councillors will delegate their role of representing the community, to the partnership, yet will continue to draw an allowance unlike the Partnership's members who are expected to work without remuneration;
 - The partnership offers no prospect of anything material being done, until the latter part of this year at best.

Proposed Alternative Course of Action

- Refer the decision recommending the Partnership back to the Single Member (or preferably to the full Cabinet) for a meeting scheduled at a convenient time to allow for webcasting and attendance by working people;
- Details in the minutes of the first meeting the contents of the deputations;
- Publishes the source of revenue for the funding of the Partnership, for which costs of £94,000 have been incurred so far, along with details of who authorised the expenditure and when;
- Sets the Partnership a budget and time limit;
- Sets the partnership measurable outcomes towards which it will work, thus providing a benchmark against which it may be judged;
- Details the mechanisms of future funding of the Partnership by the Authority and the mechanisms by which it will be held accountable by elected members;
- Details what constitutes a 'group' from which nominated members are expected to come and what threshold of legitimacy they must reach;
- Details the mechanism through which the Partnership may be held to account by local key organisations and who these key organisations actually are;
- Details how the selection process, through which the Partnership's members will be nominated by their organisations, will work and be scrutinised;
- Details whether it is intended that the Partnership, as a formal and legally constituted entity, shall be expected by the Council, to raise money via bids, for the funding of Gospel Oak's regeneration;
- Details whether regeneration in Gospel Oak is possible without a formal and legally constituted Partnership;
- Details the response rate to the consultation, as a percentage, in a separate line in the report;
- Details the evidence of communication that has taken place between the Council and local business people, prior to the formal consultation on setting up a Partnership, in the report;

- Details the evidence of all communication that has taken place between the Council and any distinct community within Gospel Oak, in the report;
- Set a budget to remunerate the Partnership's members for their time, in line with Gospel Oak's Local Councillor's allowances.

Documentation Required by the Scrutiny Committee

- Original papers considered by the Single Member
- All deputations received
- Full details of all the consultation meetings held (including attendees)
- Full details of the responses to the consultation that have been received

Signed: Councillor Andrew Mennear Councillor Claire-Louise Leyland
Councillor Kirsty Roberts Councillor Gio Spinella

(Note: A valid request for call in must be signed by 4 Members of the Council)

Date: 9 April 2012

THIS REQUEST FOR CALL IN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES (BY POST, FAX OR E-MAIL) WITHIN 5 WORKING DAYS OF THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

EXTRACT FROM CALL IN PROCEDURE

1. When a decision is made by the Cabinet, an individual Member of the Cabinet or a committee of the Cabinet, or a key decision is made by an officer with delegated authority from the Cabinet, or under joint arrangements, the decision shall be published, including where possible by electronic means, and shall be available at the Town Hall normally within 2 working days of being made.
2. The notice will be dated and will specify that the decision will come into force, and may be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days after the publication of the decision, unless the relevant Scrutiny Committee objects to it and calls it in.

3. Copies of the notice will be sent to all Members.
4. During that period, the proper officer shall call-in a decision for scrutiny by the committee if a valid request is received.
5. A valid request is one which:
 - a) is submitted by any four members of the Council; and
 - b) gives reasons in writing for the call in and outlines an alternative course of action. In particular the request must state whether or not those members believe that the decision is outside the policy or budget framework; and
 - c) is submitted to the proper officer within 5 working days of the date of the publication of the decision or
6. If no request is received, the decision is effective immediately after 7 working days has expired.

(The full call in procedure is set out in the Constitution).