

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

PROFORMA:

MAYORAL DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL-IN AND REFERENCE BACK

Mayoral Decision Log No: *009*

Title: *CONTRACT FOR 2012 OLYMPIC FESTIVAL LIVE SITE*

Is this a Key Decision: *No*

UNRESTRICTED / RESTRICTED: *Unrestricted*

DATE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: *22nd November 2011*

DECISION OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

To refer the above decision back to the Mayor for further consideration.

REASONS FOR THE REFERENCE BACK

The Call-in requisition in relation to the above decision set out the following reasons for the call-in:-

The motion on Victoria Park events passed by Full Council on 8 December 2010 resolved to ask officers to: bring forward a separate policy that addresses the particular needs of the 2012 Live Site during Olympic year, recognising that this is a one-off occasion but also recognising the needs of local residents.

This policy fails to consider impacts on residents living around Victoria Park.

Officers did not consult with residents or local ward councillors to inform their negotiations, despite knowing that residents had had serious concerns about commercial events in Victoria Park.

The taking of this decision behind closed doors denied residents and councillors that represent them the opportunity to make representations in advance.

The hours of operation are significantly longer and later (midnight and 00.30am) than those currently in operation for commercial events that have caused residents serious disturbance.

850,000 – 1.2million visitors to the park over the course of three weeks is likely to leave the park in a very poor state and make large parts of it unusable for the months that follow. This receives no consideration within the report.

The profit share should come to the Council to be spent either on the park or on local amenities.

The Council's statement that it has reserved its normal programme of commercial events in the park – and adverts for these events – make clear that this use of the park would be additional to the normal programme of commercial events that have caused residents problems.

There is no consideration of the cumulative impact of this within the report, nor of limiting events either within the Live Site or the commercial programme to limit the impact on residents.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (IF ANY)

The Call-in requisition proposed the following alternative action in relation to the Mayor's decision:-

Not to sign the contract until local residents, the Friends of Victoria Park Group and ward councillors have been consulted to ensure that their concerns can be reflected in the agreement;

To take any decision at Cabinet, where residents and councillors can make representations

To limit the hours of operation to a 10 pm close on week nights and 11pm on weekend nights

Reduce the noise levels permitted at events

To make a commitment not to run commercial events in the same year as the park is used as a live site.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the call-in request which was presented by Councillor Joshua Peck.

During consideration of the matter, at the invitation of the Chair the Committee received contributions from members of the public who were present. They stated that there had been a lack on consultation in relation to the Mayor's decision, and provided information on the impact of commercial events in the park on local residents.

They were concerned that the Live Site proposals could have a very significant impact and that the transport infrastructure and policing/security agencies would not be able to cope.

Following discussion, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the reasons for the call-in and alternative action proposed as submitted by the call-in Members and set out above.

The Committee also expressed great concern about the extent of the indemnity given in the contract to Live Nation and sought urgent advice on the responsibilities of Members in this regard.

In addition they sought clarification of the programme of commercial events that was proposed in 2012 separately from the Live Site.

In relation to the process for the decision, the Committee felt that the Mayor's decision not to treat this matter as a Key Decision, thereby avoiding the requirement for prior publicity and/or consultation with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the matter was wrong.

The Committee agreed to make a report to the next Cabinet meeting on this matter and to discuss with the Mayor guidelines for dealing with such matters in future.

The Committee further expressed disappointment that neither the Mayor nor the relevant Cabinet Member was in attendance at the O&S Committee meeting, leaving officers to represent the executive and denying the Committee and public the opportunity to hear from the Mayor his reasons for the decision and for making it in private.

DECISION OF THE MAYOR

I have reconsidered my decision Log No. 009 in the light of the information provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 22nd November 2011 as set out above.

Having taken into account all of the relevant information I have decided to:-

(a) Confirm my decision of 20th October 2011 on the matter*; or

(b) Amend my decision of 20th October 2011 on the matter as follows*:-

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(* Delete as applicable)

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| Signed | Date |
| Mayor Lutfur Rahman | |