


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>18 June 2024</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of Linda Walker, Interim Director - Legal & Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Call in - Victoria Park Licence to Occupy</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Thomas French, Democratic Services Officer (Committee)
Wards affected	All

CONSIDERATION OF THE CALL IN

A call in request has been received on the decision of Cabinet, 16 May 2024 on Item 6.9 Victoria Park Licence to Occupy

In accordance with the Council's call in procedure rules, the matter is referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for its consideration and to decide whether to refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration. The following procedure is to be followed by the Committee for consideration of the Call In:

- i. Chair to invite a call-in member to present call-in.
- ii. Chair to invite members of the Committee to ask question.
- iii. Chair to Invite Cabinet Member to respond to the call-in.
- iv. Chair to invite members of the Committee to ask questions.
- v. Followed by a general debate.

It is open to the OSC to either resolve to take no action (which would have the effect of endorsing the original Cabinet decisions), or to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for further consideration setting out the nature of its concerns and possibly recommending an alternative course of action.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Overview and Scrutiny considers:

1. The contents of the attached report, review the Cabinet's decision (provisional, subject to call in) arising; and
2. Decide whether to accept the decision or to refer the matter back to the Cabinet with proposals and reasons.

INTRODUCTION

On 16 May 2024, the Mayor in Cabinet considered a report on Victoria Park Licence to Occupy

As a result of discussions on the report it was **RESOLVED**:

1. Approve the option to enter into a Licence to Occupy with AEG Presents Limited as required.
2. Authorise the Corporate Director of Communities to instruct the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, to execute and enter into all necessary agreements to give effect to the implementation of recommendation 1;
3. To note the Equalities specific considerations as set out in Paragraph 4

The decisions above have been Called-In by Councillors Marc Francis, Mufeedah Bustin, Mohammed Chowdhury, Asma Begum, Sirajul Islam. This is in accordance with the provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.

In accordance with the OSC Protocols and Guidance adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 4 June 2013, any Member(s) who present(s) the "Call In" is (are) not eligible to participate in the general debate.

REASONS FOR THE CALL IN

The call in requisition from the Councillors noted above has provided reason(s) for the call-in. The reason(s) are replicated below:

- This report has enabled the Mayor to extend the excessive number of major commercial events in Victoria Park for an additional year (2027);
- In keeping with its refusal to listen to the views of residents living around Victoria Park, this change has not been notified to residents or even the Friends Group;

- Para 5.2 presents AEG's 'community engagement' as if it fulfills Tower Hamlets Council's own obligation to consult residents on decisions affecting their lives;
- This change commits an incoming Executive Mayor following the May 2026 local elections to a programme of events for half their term of office.

ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED

- The Mayor should reverse his decision of 16th May 2024 to extend the contract with AEG for its licence to occupy Victoria Park into 2027, and undertake proper consultation with residents before any decision is made;
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – **Victoria Park Licence to Occupy**

The original report to the Cabinet meeting is attached to this OSC report as Appendix 1. The Cabinet report includes an exempt (restricted from publication) appendix which is available **for Members of OSC** as a restricted appendix.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended) List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

- None.