To: The Chief Executive

1 NOTICE OF CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

In accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 22, we, the undersigned, hereby give notice that we wish to call-in the Executive decision detailed in section 2 below:-

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGNATURE
Keeki Thaumaiel	
BILL STEPHENSON	
NAVIN SHAH	
MARGARET DAVINE	
NANA ASANTE	
DHIRAJLAL LAVINGIA	

2. DETAILS OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

The details of the Executive decision are as follows:-
Decision: **Agenda Item 14 of the Cabinet (Aug 3): Financial Position (43 -- 62), Savings Plan, Item 17 'Focus clothing grants on real need'.**
Made by: **Cabinet (Aug 3)**
(Cabinet/relevant Portfolio Holder)
Published On: **Tuesday August 8 2006**
(Date)

3. **GROUNDS FOR CALL-IN**

Please specify below the grounds for the call-in, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 22.5 (the grounds on which an Executive decision may be called in are set out overleaf). Please note that the considerations of the Call-in Sub-Committee will focus on the grounds stated, and the Sub-Committee will seek evidence to support them. Please therefore also set out below details of the evidence to support the grounds for call-in, continuing on a separate sheet if necessary.

A large number of the items on agenda item 14 on the Cabinet (Aug 3) have not been fully thought through and represent false savings and in many cases there has been no consultation with the key stakeholders. We are asking the Call In Committee to look at a small selection of the 81 items on this list. There are many others, which could have been chosen.

The decision halves the clothing grant to children at Local Authority schools for this academic year and ends it for the following academic year barring a small residual sum. The children eligible for this grant are precisely those who are eligible for free school meals and there is a much larger take up of this grant than there is for free school meals. Most schools in Harrow have school uniforms. The parents/carers of children eligible for free school meals are the most financially hard up in the country and have great difficulty affording uniforms and indeed decent clothing and shoes for the children under their care. Children with substandard or second-hand clothing feel humiliated and have low self-esteem and this is likely to affect their ability to achieve their full potential at school. One of the key educational policies of the Council is to improve the academic achievements of children eligible for free school meals. Cutting this grant affects the most disadvantaged children and could seriously effect the achievement of this policy aim.

(a) Inadequate consultation with stakeholders prior to the decision.

There has been no consultation with heads, school governors, parents, trade unions,

young people or members. A meeting of the Education Consultative Forum (EdCF) was held on July 3 and although concern was expressed about the budget no mention was made of this proposed saving although it must have already been under consideration. Another meeting of EdCF is due on September 21. Officers moreover indicated to the Executive that consultation with schools was necessary. This has not happened. It is requested that this decision not be implemented until all stakeholders, including those mentioned above, have been consulted, and in the light of the comments received the matter be reconsidered by the Cabinet.

(b) The absence of adequate evidence on which to base the decision.

No analysis was given in any Cabinet papers or in the debate at Cabinet about the possible effects of this decision on the children concerned and their educational prospects. As £170K is being cut from a budget of £186K no information is given as to how the proposal will help 'To focus clothing grants on real need' indicated in the heading for this item. Indeed all the indications are that it will achieve exactly the opposite effect. Moreover there was no discussion about other possibilities such as cutting the grant by 50% rather than altogether. In light of this we believe Cabinet made this decision with inadequate information and it is requested that full information is made available to the Cabinet and all stakeholders before the decision is implemented.

(c) The decision is contrary to the policy framework of the Council.

As indicated above, this decision could affect the achievement of one of the Council's key educational policies to improve the academic achievement of schoolchildren entitled to free school meals.

(d) The action is not proportionate to the desired outcome.

Failure to meet key performance indicators will have a negative effect on the Council's CPA and this decision will reflect very badly on the forthcoming Joint Area Review (JAR). The saving is not proportionate to the risk. As already indicated no consideration was given to making a smaller saving in this area.

As this is a matter relating to the Council's education functions, 5.4 of 4F The Overview and Scrutiny Rules of the Constitution should apply.