

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:-

<u>NAME (PLEASE PRINT)</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
Keeki Thammaraia	M. Dharmarajah
Bill Stephenson	Bill Stephenson
NAVIN SHAM.	NAVIN SHAM.
MARGARET DAVID	M. David
DHIRAJ LAL LALINIA	M. Dharmarajah
MANO DHARMARAJAH	M. Dharmarajah

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 76 'Cease music teaching subsidy'.

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.

Harrow is extremely proud of its excellent Music Service and of the musical achievements of its young people. This decision proposes to totally cut the Council's support of £50K to this very important and valued service. There is real risk that this would damage the achievements of one of the country's most successful music services. Schools may choose not use the service any longer and this could lead to job losses and redundancies of music teachers and support staff. In addition schools may make extra charges, which may deter students especially from the poorer and disadvantaged families from taking up music in general and playing a musical instrument in particular.

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

There has been no consultation with heads, school governors, parents, young people, Harrow Young Musicians 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 Cabinet.

(a) 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 service itself or on the likely cutback in participation of pupils, particularly those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, in music in the Borough.

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

As indicated above, this decision could affect the achievements of one of the Council's most successful services.

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

The undesirable effects on music in the Borough far outweigh the savings to be made. In addition this action will reflect badly on the CPA/JAR reviews as it would indicate a lack of commitment by the Council to its Music Service and to music in the Borough as a whole.

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.