

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>
MANO DHARMARAJAH	M. Dharmarajah
Keeke THAMMAIAH	Keeke Thammaiah
NARA ASANTE	N. Asante
DHIRAJLAL LAYINGIA	D. Layingia
MARGARET DAVIDE	M. Davide
NAVIN SHAM	N. Sham

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 44 'Parks Locking'.**

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.

It is proposed that none of Harrow's parks should be locked up at night any more. Local residents regard the locking up of parks as very important, especially, to prevent anti-social behaviour and damage to park facilities under the cover of darkness. The Woodlands open area, North Harrow, which is a park, which is not locked up at night – it cannot be, is an example of what happens when this is not done. The area is plagued with continual anti-social behaviour. The Council has been criticised for not locking up its parks efficiently and has recently decided to dispense with an outside security firm and take this on in-house using its own staff and has saved a large amount of money. This scheme has only just started and will not be given a proper chance to be evaluated. Given that park locking is done in-house by current staff, it is unclear how £60K is going to be saved in a full year unless it is intended to make a member of the park staff redundant – far more than just not locking the parks - and if so will cut back the already very inadequate supervision of our parks.

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

There has been no consultation with park users' associations, residents' associations, local residents, particularly those living near or adjoining parks, affected ward councillors or young people. It is requested that this decision not be implemented until all stakeholders, including those already mentioned, have been fully consulted and in 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 possibilities of anti-social behaviour in parks under the cover of darkness nor the cost of having to repair the damage caused by such behaviour, for example, the arson of park buildings. Nor was there any evidence that simply not locking up the parks as proposed would save £60k in a full year bearing in mind this duty is now carried out in-house by the current park staff themselves.

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

The Council has a very strong policy to cutback anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime amongst local residents. This decision will lead to an increase in anti-social behaviour and will increase the fear of crime amongst local residents. Moreover, the Council is investing large sums of money to upgrade park facilities. By not locking up the parks at night all these improvements will be at risk from vandals under the cover of dark as can already be seen from elsewhere in the Borough.

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

This action could impact on the Mori survey of resident satisfaction and fear of crime and so have an impact on the CPA/JAR outcomes. The small amount of saving will be far outweighed by the cost of repairing the damage done in the parks under the cover of darkness. The action is therefore unlikely to make an overall saving and is not proportionate to the desired outcome.