

Item No:	Classification: OPEN	Date: 7 September 2015	Meeting Name: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:		Call-in: Site for location of new Canada Water Leisure Centre (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and New Homes 19 August 2015)	
Ward(s) or Group affected:		Rotherhithe, Surrey Docks, South Bermondsey, Livesey and Riverside.	
From:		Head of Overview & Scrutiny	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. On 19 August 2015 the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and New Homes considered a report on the Site for location of new Canada Water Leisure Centre (attached as an Appendix).
2. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and New Homes:
 - a. Approved the site identified in Appendix 1 as the preferred site for the location of the new Canada Water Leisure Centre.
 - b. Approved the requirements for the new centre set out in paragraph 9 and instructs officers to work with British Land to develop proposals for a new leisure centre on the site as part of the Canada Water masterplan.
 - c. Instructs officers to carry out consultation including targeted consultation with residents directly affected by the proposal in Hothfield Place, Hithe Grove, China Hall Mews on the western boundary of the site.
 - d. Notes that British land will undertake significant further consultation on proposals for the Canada Water Masterplan which includes the preferred leisure centre site and how it relates to the wider scheme during Autumn 2015 and that the proposals now incorporate the Surrey Quays Leisure Park site.
3. That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and New Homes notes that a decision on whether to proceed with the delivery of the leisure centre as part of the Canada Water Masterplan, will be taken forward as part of the development agreement with British Land the terms of which are to be considered by Cabinet early next year.

REASONS FOR CALL-IN

4. On 25 August 2015 three members of the committee (Councillor Rosie Shimell, the Vice-Chair, and Councillors Anood Al-Samerai and Lisa Rajan) requested a call-in of the decisions on the following grounds:

a. Presumption in favour of openness

The report fails to explain why the decision is so urgent that it needs to be taken now as an IDM decision over the summer holidays. Given that the report was not on the Forward Plan as a key decision, it is not clear why it cannot instead wait until the 15 September Cabinet meeting when two other items relating to Canada Water regeneration are on the agenda to ensure a more joined-up decision and allow residents to make a deputation request.

The process for identifying the Council's preferred site in the report has not been transparent. There is no evidence of how alternative sites were evaluated or whether the existing Seven Islands leisure centre could be upgraded. There is also no justification given in the report for a reduced pool size compared to the existing provision at Seven Islands.

b. Due consultation

The number of residents notified about this IDM report is not proportionate to the impact of the decision. Such a major issue as the future provision of the local community's leisure facilities should involve all residents within the SE16 postcode area, not just the streets bordering the site.

The Cabinet Member has not given due consideration to the consultation process before reaching his decision. There are still advertised resident consultation events due to take place after the IDM decision but before the 15 September Cabinet meeting.

The site identified for a new leisure centre in the report is also a departure from the Cabinet decision on Canada Water Regeneration agreed at its meeting on 18 November 2014. The map in appendix 1 of the report last year does not include some of the site now identified for the proposed new leisure centre and the additional land has not been subject to any formal consultation since the Cabinet decision.

c. Reference to the policy framework

The decision refers to representations from residents, but does not show either how the Cabinet Member has addressed residents' concerns expressed during on-site meetings and in formal representations or how it ties into the wider Canada Water masterplan items (Canada Water Regeneration and Canada Water Revised Area Action Plan) being discussed by Cabinet on 15 September.

The decision also fails to meet the Council's strategic leisure policy objectives. Despite the projected population increases in the Rotherhithe peninsula and number of leisure centre users as a result of the Council's free swimming and gym policy, the report highlights that the new leisure centre will offer a reduction in facilities compared to the existing Seven Islands Leisure Centre.

CALL-IN MEETING

5. The committee will consider the call-in request and whether or not the decision might be contrary to the policy framework or not wholly in accordance with the budget.

6. If, having considered the decision and all relevant advice, the committee is still concerned about it then it may either:
- a) refer it back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns, or
 - b) refer the matter to council assembly if the decision is deemed to be outside the policy and budget framework.
7. If the committee does not refer the matter back to the decision making person or body, the decision shall take effect on the date of the scrutiny meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held at	Contact
None		

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
Report Author	Fitzroy Williams, Scrutiny Project Assistant	
Version	Final	
Dated	1 September 2015	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included