

Item No:	Classification: OPEN	Date: 10 August 2011	Meeting Name: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:		Call-in: Voluntary Sector Day Services and Lunch Clubs and Community Support (Cabinet decision 19 July 2011)	
Ward(s) or Group affected:		All	
From:		Head of Overview & Scrutiny	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. On 19 July 2011 the cabinet considered a report on the Voluntary Sector Day Services and Lunch Clubs and Community Support (included as appendix).
2. The cabinet agreed:
 1. That the council contribution to voluntary sector open access day services/lunch clubs be reduced by ceasing block contracting arrangements and funding eligible individuals through personal budgets.
 2. That officers work intensively to embed the personal budget model for users of these services with eligible care and support needs, as an alternative means of income for organisations, by end August 2011.
 3. That an innovation fund be launched, where organisations can bid for funding to support transformation and the development of hubs and encourage future financial self-sustainability.
 4. That agreement be given to the implementation of proposals to re-commission community support services for older people (information, advice, advocacy and befriending) from April 2012 by inviting bids against a revised service specification that supports the objectives.

REASONS FOR CALL-IN

1. On 27 July 2011 the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Councillor Cathy Bowman - and three members of the committee, (Councillors David Hubber, Tim McNally and David Noakes) requested a call-in of the decisions on the following grounds:
 - a) Proportionality
 - b) Link between strategy and implementation

The vast majority of voluntary sector services across the council are scheduled to lose 20-30% of their funding. The voluntary sector day centres are losing 100% funding in one hit with the result that this service takes a disproportionate hit from the savings agenda. Moreover, the client group most affected by these cuts tends to be women and ethnic minorities.

The council's budget principles undertake to protect frontline services and to support the borough's most vulnerable residents. The equality impact assessment (EQiA) highlights the impact these cuts are likely to have on elderly, disabled and BME groups.

CALL-IN MEETING

2. The committee will consider the call-in request and in particular whether or not the decision might be contrary to the policy framework or not wholly in accordance with the budget.
3. 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.
4. 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
Report to Cabinet 19 July 2011	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Everton Roberts Constitutional Team 020 7525 7221

APPENDICES
Cabinet report

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
Report Author	Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	July 2011	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Communities, Law & Governance	No	-
Cabinet Member	No	-