
CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION
Proposed purchase of a 134-unit City Centre Building

Overview Select Committee – 19 March 2025

COUNCIL – 20 March 2025

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Jacob Mann
- Author contact details: Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: V1

1. Summary

An Executive decision taken by the City Mayor on 3 March 2025 relating to the proposed purchase of the YoHo building has been the subject of a 7-member call-in under the procedures at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules, of the Council's Constitution.

The procedure rules state that a scrutiny committee or any five councillors may request formally that the decision be called-in for a further review by giving notice in writing to the Monitoring Officer within five working days of the decision.

The seven Councillors who signed the call in were: Councillor Kitterick (Proposer), Councillor Sahu (Seconder), Councillor Haq, Councillor Porter, Councillor Westley, Councillor Kennedy-Lount, and Councillor Gregg

2. Recommended actions/decision

The Committee is recommended to either:

- a) Note the report without further comment or recommendation. *(If the report is noted the process continues and the call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council);* or
- b) Comment on the specific issues raised by the call-in. *(If comments are made the process continues and the comments and call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council);* or
- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn *(If the committee wish for there to be no further action on the call-in, then they must actively withdraw it. If withdrawal is agreed the call-in process stops, the call-in will not be considered at a future meeting of Full Council and the original decision takes immediate affect without amendment).*

Council is recommended to either:

- a) Support the City Mayor's decision, and thus confirming the decision with immediate effect; or
- b) Recommend a different decision to the City Mayor. (The original decision will still stand, unless the City Mayor takes a further decision to amend the original.)

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

The decision was not considered with a scrutiny commission prior to the decision being made.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

The Executive Decision Report, Equality Impact Assessment and Decision Notice are attached at Appendix A-C.

5. Detailed report

The call-in submitted to the Monitoring Officer was in the following terms:

"We the undersigned wish to call in the decision to purchase the "YoHo" building in Leicester City Centre for the following reasons.

- 1. This major decision has not undergone a single minute of public scrutiny.*
- 2. The rooms provided are predominantly only 23 sqm, which is well below the National Designated Space Standards, smaller than many hotel rooms and it is envisaged that couples as well as single people will be allocated to this accommodation.*
- 3. We understand that this accommodation will be targeted at people with substance misuse issues, and the concentration of a large amount of people with such issues in cramped quarters in a location in the city centre already blighted by anti-social behaviour will be damaging for the residents of YoHo and the wider city centre.*
- 4. The potential support given for the vulnerable residents of YoHo will be inadequate and has not been properly considered.*
- 5. To make this proposal work, we understand planning changes will be required which could open the door to more poor quality student accommodation being flipped into the "warehousing" of vulnerable people.*
- 6. We understand the purchase price is well above the market rate for similar accommodation in the city centre."*

The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the call-in satisfies the requirements of the procedure rules and it has, therefore, proceeded as per the process set out at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.

Where a call-in has been made, officers are to take no further legally binding action, unless the circumstances of Rule 12 (f) are fulfilled, and the matter shall be referred to a meeting of the full Council. Prior to this it shall be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee if one is programmed or a special scrutiny committee if one is convened.

The call-in may however be withdrawn if:

The relevant scrutiny committee/commission makes a resolution to withdraw; or

The sponsor and seconder of the call-in inform the Monitoring Officer that they wish the call-in to be withdrawn.

Following consideration of a call-in by Full Council, the original decision will be deemed to be revived in its entirety. Any agreement by the decision maker to change the original decision will require a further formal Executive Decision.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the call-in beyond those in the decision report.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy, Head of Finance
Dated : 10 March 2025

6.2 Legal implications

The legal implications arising from the call-in are explained in sections 2 and 5 above

Signed: Kamal Adatia, Monitoring Officer
Dated: 10 March 2025

6.3 Equalities implications

There are no comments in addition to those in the decision report.

Signed: Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer
Dated: 11 March 2025

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no further climate emergency implications to those provided in the decision report.

Signed: Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency)
Dated: 11 March 2025

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

7. Background information and other papers:

None

8. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A Executive Decision Report – Proposed purchase of a 134-unit City Centre Building dated 3 March 2025

Appendix B Equality Impact Assessment dated 19 August 2024

Appendix C Decision Notice - Proposed purchase of a 134-unit City Centre Building dated 3 March 2025

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No