

CALL-IN REQUEST FORM

1.	Decision to be called in: Sunnyside Regeneration Update and Glassworks Sunderland – Report of the Executive Director of Economy and Place							
2.	Decision made by : (Tick the choice which applies)	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; border: none;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="border: none;">The Cabinet</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="border: none;">Committee of Cabinet</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="border: none;">Delegated Officer</td> </tr> </table> Name of Committee or Delegated Officer: <hr style="width: 30%; margin-left: 0;"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Cabinet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Committee of Cabinet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Officer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Cabinet							
<input type="checkbox"/>	Committee of Cabinet							
<input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Officer							
3.	Date decision was made: 24 July 2025							
4.	Are you calling in the decision because you believe it to be outside the Budget or Policy Framework? <p style="text-align: center;">No</p>	Are you calling in the decision because you believe it is contrary to the principles of good decision making? <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>						
5.	Reasons for the call-in: We the undersigned request a Call-in of this decision as we believe that it is contrary to the principles of good decision making, as outlined below. Principle of decision making: Proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome). N/A							

Principle of decision making: Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers.

N/A

Principle of decision making: Respect for human rights.

- The UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes right to work. While the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) doesn't explicitly protect the right to work, aspects of it are protected through case law.
- The decision to proceed with the Glassworks development threatens these rights as there have not been adequate guarantees on provision of facilities for those artists and creatives currently using glassmaking facilities at the National Glass Centre to earn a living.

Principle of decision making: A presumption in favour of openness.

N/A

Principle of decision making: Clarity of aims and desired outcomes.





- The decision seeks to enter into funding agreements and undertake design and enabling works in relation to the former Peter Smith Antiques building to support delivery of Glassworks project.
- However, there are serious doubts from glassmakers, experts and councillors in the city that the building would ever be suitable for such a use.
- As such, councillors are not clear about the Council's aims and desired outcomes in relation to tourism, university teaching, arts and culture and the future of glassmaking on Wearside and if proceeding with these design and enabling works would ever provide a suitable venue.
- Initial planning by Theatre Space North East (TSNE) indicated that the refit of the building for the theatre conversion was going to cost about £5million. Glassworks requires a more technical, specialised use of the space and is likely to exceed that amount considerably. There are questions about whether specialist facilities will be able to be housed in the Peter Smith Antiques building; and whether the project is possible within the allocated budget.
- For example, the University has offered to donate equipment to Glassworks, it had previously costed the decommissioning, transportation and commissioning of the equipment at £700000 (ex VAT) (Priestman Feasibility Study, source: University of

Sunderland). This excludes storage and additional transport costs. There are doubt over whether the £7.5million budget able to withstand large costs like that, and whether proceeding with this project will provide value for money for the taxpayer and have a realistic chance of delivering a workable glassmaking facility.

- Sunderland Culture have stated that Glassworks would attract 50,000 visitors annually, 300 glass artists, and employ 16 creative roles. There is no indication as to how those numbers have been arrived at. Even if all those roles were at minimum wage that would lead to a wage bill of over £500,000 annually meaning that each visitor spend on average would need to provide £10 of profit to cover the wage bill alone. With doubts that Glassworks generate sufficient income, councillors cannot be clear that the aims and desired outcomes of this decision are desirable or achievable.
- Currently the National Glass Centre's business model includes leasing studio space to tenants. Most tenants are alumni of the university. In the longer term we are not clear how can a sustainable business model be created when there are no academic courses being taught. There is a projected gap of at least two years between the NGC closing in July 2026 and Glassworks opening in 2028, when there will be no income and huge expenditure. Staff are being made redundant, all their world class expertise will be lost, and it seems highly unlikely that they still be available for recruitment after 2 years. These issues should be considered as part of the Call-in process so that the committee can make a decision on whether or not the decision's desired aims and outcomes are achievable and/or desirable.
- Section 4.17 of the Cabinet report states a desire to create a "populous residential neighbourhood" in Sunnyside. We have doubts that this is a suitable location for an industrial glass making facility which will pose significant fire safety risks in very close proximity to residential buildings. For example, glassmaking processes require the use of heat and of materials that are hazardous to human health if the risks are not managed correctly. One of the control methods used to protect glassmakers is an extraction system. Heat, fumes and dust are extracted from the air, filtered and then the waste gases are emitted into the atmosphere. Could the existing building accommodate such a flue, and how can this be appropriate so close to a conservation area? Given that the proposed location of Glassworks is directly opposite a 10-story apartment block, how will an extraction system work, will residents discover that they need to keep their windows closed.

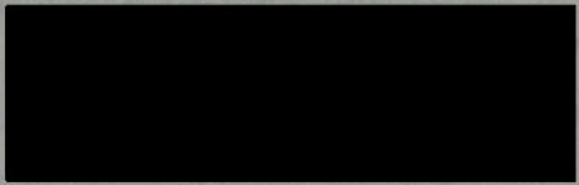
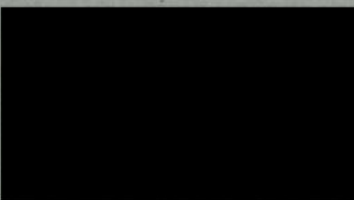
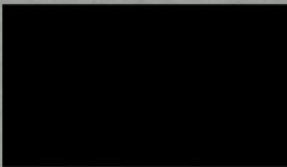
In summary, we the undersigned do not believe there is sufficient clarity over the project's aims and outcomes to feasibly build a glassmaking facility in this location.

Signatures of Seven Members

Name	Signature
1. Paul Edgeworth	
2. Stephen O'Brien	
3. MARGARET CROSBY	
4. HEATHER FAGAN	
5.	
6.	
7.	

Chair		
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Signatures of Seven Members

Name	Signature
1. <i>Antony Mullen</i>	
2. <i>Lynn Reed</i>	
3. <i>Michael Hartmaek</i>	

Contact Details:	
Name of person to be contacted if there are any difficulties or questions	Paul Edgeworth or Antony Mullen