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Tolmers Sq. CPOs go-ahead

CAMDEN COUNCIL are going ahead now with applications for compulsory purchase orders on the whole Tolmers Square site—including the Stock Conversion Property. But the council still haven't decided which deal—the Joe Levy's Stock Conversion or the Claudius Properties—to go for.

The final decision is expected to come at a special meeting of the new Community Planning and Resources Committee, under the chairmanship of council leader Frank Dobson, on September 3.

The original decision for Camden to make applications on the whole area was taken before the Claudius plans were put to the council by journalists Christopher Booker and Bennie Gray. It doesn't rule out the Claudius deal as these CPO's would have to go through in the name of Camden as part of whoever's deal the council finally picks. The sudden surge into action by the council means that all the preparations on either development can speedily be put into process.

The council officers are at

the moment conducting an intensive survey into the whole of the site prior to making an immediate application for the compulsory purchase orders.

A meeting took place last week between the council and Stock Conversion at the request of the company, at which pressure was put on the council to make a firm decision now. The council told Stock Conversion that none would be made until the end of August.

Deputy leader of the Council, Cllr Geoffrey Bindman who was at that meeting told the "Journal" that the council was not going to bow to outside pressures into making a quick decision. "We have got to judge things in the best interest of the people of Camden, we won't necessarily make any firm decision at that September 3 meeting. If we aren't sure, we'll defer the decision."

He confirmed that if the committee did make a decision, that decision would be final and there would be no need to call a special council meeting. It would just go before the ordinary October meeting.