

**Subject:** Petitions  
**Date of Meeting:** 17 November 2016  
**Report of:** Executive Lead for Strategy Governance & Law  
**Contact Officer: Name:** Ross Keatley **Tel:** 29-1064  
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**Wards Affected:** All

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 To receive those petitions presented to the Full Council and referred to the committee for consideration.
- 1.2 To receive any petitions to be presented or which have been submitted via the council's website or for which notice has been given directly to Democratic Services.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the Committee responds to the petitions either by noting it or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:
  - taking the action requested in the petition
  - considering the petition at a council meeting
  - holding an inquiry into the matter
  - undertaking research into the matter
  - holding a public meeting
  - holding a consultation
  - holding a meeting with petitioners
  - calling a referendum
- 2.2 That the Committee give specific consideration to the recommendations from Council in relation to petition ii) 'Family Homes Not HMOs' set out below:

**Recommendations from Council:**

- 1) That the Committee give consideration to the petition's request and the recommendations from the full Council:

- 2) That the Committee be requested to consider that the City Plan Part One be reviewed to increase the area of restriction from 50 metres to 150 metres where applications for conversion to HMOs will be rejected if more than 5% of current dwellings are already HMOs;
- 3) That the Committee be requested as a priority to consider the extension of the current Article 4 Direction area and options to further extend the licensing of private rented housing; and
- 4) That the Committee consider whether to better align the Planning and Licensing functions in relation to HMOs and learn from other university towns as to more effective management of student HMOs and to request a report on this matter to its next meeting.

### **3. PETITIONS**

#### **3.1 Petitions for presentation:**

##### **i) HMOs in Elm Grove Area**

Petition from Peter Coppard.

To receive the following Petition:

“We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to undertake a thorough review of number of properties in the Hanover & Elm Grove ward designated House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) with a view to controlling the number of students residing in the area and thereby the anti social behaviour and noise problem that they cause.

##### Justification:

The housing in the area between Elm Grove and Hartington Road was designed for family use and much of this is now being lost to HMOs. This is supported by the fact that there exists a large primary school in Elm Grove. We believe that the resulting increase in student use, with the social problems they cause are having a detrimental effect on what was once, and should still be, a family area.”

#### **3.2 Referred petitions:**

##### **ii) Family Homes Not HMOs**

Petition from Bill Gandey referred from the Council meeting held on 20 October 2016 (1,285 signatures).

To receive the following Petition:

“We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to prohibit the issuing of any future HMO certificates in the Bevendean/Moulsecoomb ward.

Over 800 'Houses In Multiple Occupation' (HMO) certificates have been currently issued in the Bevendean/Moulsecoomb ward, the ward includes Coombe road.

Families that have lived in this area all their lives are being out-priced of the housing market by HMO developers. That's the loss of over 800 affordable family homes that have been converted into HMOs. With the vast majority being exclusively let to University Students.

We believe it is the biggest threat to our community and to the affordable family homes housing market in the City of Brighton. There are, at present over 800 family homes that have been lost to HMOs in the Bevendean & Moulsecoomb ward alone. With another 4 HMO proposals as I write. Sign this Petition and join us in calling for a halt to this practice”

(Extract from the meeting of Council on 20 October 2016 attached as an appendix)

