

Brighton & Hove City Council

Transport & Sustainability Committee

Agenda Item 77(a)

Subject: Petitions

Date of meeting: 26 March 2024

Report of: Executive Director for Governance, People & Resources

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Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 To receive any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the committee responds to the petition either by noting it or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter.

3. Context and background information

3.1 To receive the following petition signed by 1007 people at the time of publication:

(1) Urge Brighton and Hove Council to Maintain Subsidies for the 79 Bus

The Brighton and Hove Council is considering discontinuing subsidies for the 79 bus route. Cutting this service will significantly reduce access to the Downs for residents who don't own a car as well as tourists and visitors. Additionally, the car park at Ditchling Beacon fills early and gets congested so, using the bus allows car owners and non-car owners alike to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful views outside the town. The bus frequently carries passengers who have travelled from London to Brighton by train and caught the 79 bus in order to access the Downs. According to data from the Department for Transport (2019), public transport usage in our area has been steadily increasing over recent years. The 79 bus route plays a significant role in this trend by enabling us to exercise in the fresh air so benefitting our mental and physical health. The cuts would disproportionately affect low-income households and vulnerable groups such as senior citizens who depend on public transport.

We understand that budgets are tight but we believe that maintaining these subsidies is not just important but necessary for preserving our community's accessibility and inclusivity. We urge the Brighton and Hove Council to continue subsidising the 79 bus route. By doing so, they will be ensuring equitable access to transportation for all residents in our community.

