

Subject:	Gypsies & Travellers in Brighton and Hove		
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2011		
Report of:	Monitoring Officer		
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Wards Affected:	All		

For general release

Note: The subject matter of the petition is an executive function and therefore not one that Full Council can make a decision on.

PETITION TRIGGERING A FULL COUNCIL DEBATE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not a petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 A combined paper and e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,805 signatures.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Cabinet Meeting for consideration.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

"We the undersigned petition the council to take immediate and effective action when gypsies and travellers set up unauthorised encampments on parks and open spaces within the city's boundary. Immediate action should mean requesting Sussex Police to use their powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 rather than using the long-winded process of repossession of the land through the courts. We also petition Council to recognise that providing a permanent site in the city will only accommodate a small number of travellers who wish to remain in the city and will not deal with the problems of the many who have permanent sites elsewhere and come to the city looking for work."

Lead Petitioner – Councillor Dee Simson

3.2 As the subject matter of the petition relates to an executive function, the options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate;
or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Cabinet Meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Cabinet Meeting with recommendations.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then call on the relevant Cabinet Member to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;
- (iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment or additional recommendation(s) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;
- (iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
- (v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Cabinet Member to reply to the points raised;
- (vi) The Mayor will then formally put:
 - (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and then
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).