

**Subject:** Petitions  
**Date of Meeting:** 19 June 2013  
**Report of:** Head of Law  
**Contact Officer:** Name: Lisa Johnson Tel: 29-1228  
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**Key Decision:** No  
**Wards Affected:** All

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

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

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.2 That the Committee responds to the petition 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
- § referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- § calling a referendum

**3. PETITIONS****3. (i) Bringing Empty Properties Back into Use**

To receive the following e-Petition submitted by Michael Sexton and signed by 34 people as at 10 June 2013 (The committee will receive an update as to the final number of signatories).

"We the undersigned petition the council to bring the 867 long term empty properties in B&H shown in the 2012 Homes from Empty Properties report back into use. We call on the council to publish a list of these properties complete with a funded plan to bring them back in use.

**Justification:**

867 empty properties could be brought back in use for those in need under the powers that the council already holds. This should be funded by stopping all non essential projects (such as new signage, cycle paths, redevelopment vanity projects, the eye) until 90% of these properties are in use. Homes are far more important than many of the council's other expenditure. Any list of these properties should avoid giving exact addresses to reduce the risk of squatting. Empty Property Report at <http://www.emptyhomes.com/statistics-2/empty-homes-statistic-2011/12>."